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14 MAY 1987

Near East/South Asia Report

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EGYPT

SIDQI COMMENTS ON U.S. ASSISTANCE, IMF TALKS

JN051558 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has stated that U.S. military assistance to Egypt is a grant that is not repaid. He added: In our talks with the IMF, we seek to reschedule the debts and obtain a 2 to 3 year grace period before settling them. Egypt will not agree to anything that will harm the Egyptian people's interests which is why the results of the current negotiations with the IMF have not yet appeared. At a political conference held by the NDP in the Almaza Sports Club in Heliopolis, the prime minister said that Egypt is not the only country in the world that is indebted. Debts are not a disgrace. The disgrace is not to use the sums borrowed in a judicious manner. He added: That's why the \$9.5 billion in loans we obtained were used for financing development projects.

The prime minister said: President Mubarak gave us instructions to seek loans only if they are for productive projects which can repay these loans.

The prime minister stressed that the NDP will not budget from its principles in serving the citizens, that its services will not discriminate between citizens, and that these services are for all the Egyptians whether they are supporters or opposition members.

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CSO: 4500/87

EGYPT

U.S. EMBASSY IN CAIRO TO FIRE 750 EGYPTIAN WORKERS

PM220925 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 14 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Abu Liwayah: "Expulsion of 750 Egyptians Working at U.S. Embassy in Cairo"]

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Cairo has decided to expel, as of next May, 750 Egyptians working there in the department of public services as well as garage workers, drivers, and workshop and maintenance workers.

At the beginning of this year the U.S. Embassy in Cairo invited contractors to bid for the provision of such services and set the end of this month, April, as the date for opening the envelopes.

Furthermore, the embassy refused to pay the workers any compensation, especially since they have been working for 15 years and their social insurance contributions have been paid. The embassy decided to provide them with letters of dismissal, stop paying their insurance contributions, and make their continuation dependent upon the contractor who will be awarded the contract.

It has been reported that the embassy's security department has taken full measures to prevent any uprising by the workers and, therefore, the employees' desks and cabinets were sealed off and indeed searched and some of the workers' belongings were taken. The security department warned the workers not to open their desks or cabinets except with its permission.

**/9599
CSO: 4500/86**

MUBARAK ON INTERNAL SITUATION, REGIONAL ISSUES

NC090824 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)--President Husni Mubarak has asked the new People's Assembly to adhere to national work, to eschew self and party interests, and take into account the Egyptian people's interests and higher pan-Arab goals. He also asked the opposition to keep watch on the government and offer constructive criticism, as this leads to progress and development.

In an interview with 'Irfan Nizar-al-Din, chief editor of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, President Mubarak expressed optimism about improvement in the Egyptian economy, noting the revival of tourism, increasing oil production, and the efforts to reschedule debts, in addition to increased production and reduced bureaucracy. The president warned against tampering in international situations. He stressed that Egypt's stability is the safety valve for the stability of the Arab nation and said that relations with the Arab leaders are good. He noted that contacts with Arab countries are continuing, with the exception of Syria. He also stressed that there are no problems with Sudan and that the issue of Libyan entry into Sudanese territories is Sudan's concern, having nothing to do with Egypt.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt will not relinquish a single inch of its soil. This was in response to negative statements by some Arab officials, including one who asked what would happen if Egypt left the Sinai and fought. Mubarak said that these officials are short-sighted and stressed that the Egyptian people are the masters of their destiny.

President Mubarak spoke about Egyptian efforts to convoke an international peace conference. He noted that such a meeting could be held if intentions are sincere and if the Arabs agreed about its importance. He said that Arab divisions affect the Palestinian issue, adding that European countries agree in principle on the conference. Israel, too, with the exception of some intransigent officials, and the United States will agree if it becomes clear that all the parties involved want the conference and peace in the region. He added that there are many options for Palestinian representation within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

President Mubarak expressed belief that cancellation of the Amman agreement is unwise. He said that those calling for its cancellation are sabotaging

everything and placing King Husayn in a difficult situation. The president asked: If they want to cancel this agreement, what is their alternative? Cancelling the agreement would be very grave. The world would lose all confidence in the region. For the PLO to take such an action would be a mistake. I appeal to it to give this much thought before making a decision.

Concerning relations with Libya, the president said there are no contacts with the Libyans now, and he expressed hope that the Libyan people will some day again be the masters of their fate. As for the two Libyan planes, Mubarak said: The Yemeni president [not further identified] approached us about the first plane. Then the second aircraft landed, and there have been no further developments. We have asked that three Egyptians held in Libya be released in return for our allowing the return of the aircraft to Libya.

Our ties with the Saudis are excellent, President Mubarak said, adding: I have good personal relations with the Saudi brothers. Our relations with the Gulf countries and with Saudi Arabia are very good. He welcomed the opening in Egypt of the Saudi exhibition "The Kingdom, Yesterday, and Today." Mubarak said that ties between Egypt and most Arab countries exist in practice, if not in form.

President Mubarak described Egyptian ties with the Soviet Union as quite normal, referring to the agreement concluded between the two countries on rescheduling the debt and the grace period granted to Egypt through this agreement.

President Mubarak reacted sarcastically to rumors that a vice president has been chosen but that the pertinent decree has been locked away in the president's desk. Mubarak said that keeping such a matter secret would benefit no one. The people, he said, have the right to choose whomever they want.

Egypt is a safety valve in the region, President Mubarak reiterated, repeating three times that if anything happened to Egypt the whole region would go up in flames. He also noted the political stability in Egypt, contrasting it with rumors frequently disseminated in some Arab countries.

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CSO: 4500/87

MUBARAK STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC STABILITY

NC041946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Asyut, 4 Apr (MENA)--President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has warned that there are forces which are trying to obstruct Egypt's march toward progress. Blinded by their hatred, these forces are trying to undermine these efforts and to destabilize Egypt.

During a rally held today at the end of his visit to Asyut, President Mubarak noted that there are those who do not want Egypt to rise or its people to advance. It is these people who have been behind the irresponsible attempts to sow discord among the Egyptian people.

President Mubarak called for each attempt to sow sedition among the sons of the same people to be confronted.

According to Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif, President Mubarak explained that international news agencies had tried to exploit these events by blowing them all out of proportion in a way that harmed Egypt's image and stability.

President Mubarak affirmed the importance of domestic stability. Without this stability, he added, there can be no progress, development, or reconstruction.

President Mubarak called for more production and work to satisfy the people's aspirations. He talked about the various dimensions of the country's economic situation and the efforts being made to speed up development, increase the amount of cultivated land, and attain self-sufficiency in major agricultural products within the framework of 5-year plans.

President Mubarak also referred to Egypt's foreign policy and its relations with Arab, African, and other states. He explained in detail Egypt's efforts to solve the Palestinian issue.

President Mubarak had earlier toured the Governorate of Asyut for 6 hours, during which he opened several development projects. He later undertook a similar visit to the Governorate of Kafr al-Shaykh.

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CAIRO PAPER DISCUSSES WAYS TO CREATE STABILITY

PM221543 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Apr 87 p 1

[Article by Mustafa Shardi: "Cooperation, Balance, But No Suicide!"]

[Text] The Egyptian economic crisis is difficult, complicated, and indeed extremely severe. Despite this fact, we should not allow this crisis, however severe, to force us to commit suicide. We are at present making contacts and holding talks with the West, which does not understand our problems--I specifically mean the United States--and also the East, which has long been observing our problems and has waited for a suitable opportunity to strike--I specifically mean the Soviet Union.

We have no objection at all to making contacts with both and strengthening relations with them in general provided that we realize a very important fact, that neither will give something in return for nothing. In short, the question is a give and take approach. This international tradition equally applies to Washington, Moscow, and other Western and Eastern capitals. Those who are negotiating with us from both sides fully understand our economic situation--regrettably they in fact know more of its details and secrets than ourselves. This means that we are a delicious, succulent piece of meat on the negotiating table, each side wants to take a bite from it or if possible completely swallow the whole piece. Therefore we should be cautious and hold on to neutrality and adhere to balanced relations. Here we must take complete care that desperation and the intensity of the crisis does not force us to take steps that would lead us into a chasm of non-decisionmaking.

What really surprises me and all other Egyptians is that we are all utterly convinced that nothing will extricate Egypt from its ordeal except the funds of its sons, the hands of its youth, the hard work of its people. Such elements are available but the question is that the funds are hidden, the young are jobless, and the people do not trust the regime to give it enough hard work. These are the three sides of the problem. Anyone who looks for loans and believes that they will solve Egypt's problems is in fact making a big mistake and leading Egypt into more disasters. Anyone who goes outside the borders to search for a solution to the Egyptian problem is in fact suffering from nationalist blindness because he does not see that the true and only solution can be reached in Egypt itself. All that is required is that Egyptian investors feel secure and come out of the darkness and that we create

work opportunities for the young through gigantic projects; then our young people will achieve miracles. The regime should also begin to pursue attitudes and practices aimed at achieving reconciliation with the Egyptian people, respecting their will, recognizing their humaneness, restoring their rights in full, and refraining from lying to them. If this is done the people will once again set the wheels in motion and will work hard. They have been known throughout history for their nobility, generosity, and liberality. We will then approach the shore of security.

Egyptian funds will not be forthcoming, sweat will not irrigate the land, and limbs will not strengthen except through clear and irrefutable constitutional guarantees that will not be subject to venality or harm after a period of time. There is no economic prosperity without stability and no stability before a decisive and final political solution is reached that would make the Egyptian people feel that they live in their own homeland not in a farm controlled by some adventurers who want to be the sole beneficiaries of all its goodness regardless of the circumstances surrounding the inhabitants.

The first step on the road to popular reconciliation, the availability of suitable climates for political stability, being the foundation and the base for economic stability, is the amendment of the constitution and the drafting of a new constitution which would satisfy the nation and which the people would agree upon, a constitution whose stipulations would preserve for the Egyptians their political and economic rights and protect the backs of their flesh from the whips of the oppressors, a constitution that would be considered a suit of armor which in the future would protect the homeland from dictatorship, oppression, absolutism, and from the adventurers filling the seats of authority.

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PAPER DISCUSSES ISLAMIC SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS

PM221333 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Apr 87 p 9

[Article by Salah Shadi: "Yes, Islam Is the Solution"]

[Excerpts] Now that the voices of the electors and candidates have died down and the rumbling of the roaring waves of the election epic with both its good and evil aspects has abated, one cannot but look toward the duties of responding to the loud reverberation caused by the questions raised by writers and thinkers concerning the inrush of new blood into the People's Assembly's veins during the recent elections despite the blatant election-rigging perpetrated by the authorities against all the opposition parties. Such rigging was unprecedented, even during the days of Sidqi Pasha whose tampering with the elections was a trifle in comparison with that of our wise government.

The name of our distinguished minister [not further identified, presumably Minister of Interior Zaki Badr] will be recorded in history with letters of fire that will burn his past, present, and future--that is if any future is left for him.

I am not here to discuss the election-rigging, for all the nation has witnessed this rigging which I am not going to discuss any further.

My talk today is a response to the many questions on the minds of some writers, the most recent of which concerns what Makram Muhammad Ahmad wrote in AL-MUSAWAR.

The writer begins his article by ridiculing the slogan which the Muslim Brotherhood adopted for its election campaign, namely, Islam Is the Solution. He says that this matter must not go by having been referred to simply in general terms, but rather it should be the subject of objective and frank discussion in which everybody should take part, a discussion in which knives and daggers should disappear, all mental coercion be shunned, and a thorough examination of the minutest details of this phrase be carried out--the very general terms that filled the scene of the battle whereby everyone was promised manna from heaven if we once again became Muslims.

The problem of today's writers is that when they hear the phrase Islam Is the Solution they think that the one saying it is accusing them of departing from Islam.

The fact behind the complex that this slogan has created in the minds of these writers--and they are numerous--is the deliberate discrepancy between what they believe in their heart of hearts, that Islam has nothing to do with the individual's lifestyle socially, economically, and politically, and the concept toward which this slogan drives them. Therefore, their reaction would be one of denial and so they imagine that they are the ones meant by it; that is, they are not Muslims.

The other problem with our writers is that they cannot imagine that Islam is a whole life system but think that the role of Islam is, as the writer said, one of inhibitor, motivator, and controller of man's conscience. Continuing, he says: What completes the role of religion even within this educational framework is the democracy of rule and just equality between man's rights and obligations, and realization of the role of social justice in arousing the enthusiasm of the masses and of consolidating the ties of unity and cohesion of the masses.

It seems as if the writer is completing with his inspired and fine style what God's book is lacking. But if the writer wishes to read something about freedom let him read in God's complete book which says "no coercion in religion" and "whoever wants to believe let him do so and whoever wants to be an fidel let him do so." And if he wants to know about democracy in rule, as he called it, let him then read how Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq and 'Umar ibn al-Khattab assumed the caliphate after God's messenger, peace and prayers be upon him. None of them assumed power with the force of tanks and steel and fire as today's governments do.

I excuse our daring writer who sought to complete God's words with his distorted words because he has not yet tested the sweetness of the Koran nor has he tried to understand it.

What is astonishing about such writers is that they did not read the Koran as one who is trying to find in it what he wants in life. Rather they read it--that is, if they read it at all--in order to find in it what suits their thinking, their behavioral inclinations, and their lifestyle trends which they wish to advocate to us.

There is a great difference between a person committed to the rules of the Koran who finds in it what he is looking for, who uses it as his guide and inspiration, and an affluent reader who reads to pass the time, who reads for pleasure and even for criticism if he can.

The writer asks derisively whether those advocates of Islam have the Islamic solution that could be the magical prescription that would bring manna and solace to the hungry and the deprived.

I would answer the scornful writer--while I am unarmed with daggers and knives--by saying: Had you paid alms on your wealth, purged it of usury, and acted in accordance with God's orders to the believers which ban abuse of public funds in the service of rulers lest they plunder some people's money, then God's saying that "if the people of the towns had believed and feared God, we should indeed have opened unto them all kinds of blessings from heaven and earth; but they rejected the truth and we brought them to book for their misdeeds" [Koranic verse] would apply to you.

The poverty and loss of identity from which we are suffering is due to what we have done with our hands and in our minds in denying the reality of the Koranic verses and even scorning some of them. The Koran is the guide for the believers and not for the ones who deny it.

Are we really still Muslims because our minarets are sky high and during the month of Ramadan our media celebrate with quiz shows and night and day show us swaying and gyrating nude and semi-nude female dancers? Is this the Islam which your God has decreed for us, brother writer?

Nevertheless, I say that we are Muslims as long as we proclaim that there is no god but God and Muhammad is His messenger, but we are disobedient, sinful, and guilty because our deeds are not the same as our words.

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CSO: 4500/86

AL-SHA'B ARTICLE FAVORS BADR'S DISMISSAL

PM211119 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Apr 87 p 12

[Article by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus: "The Worst Mistake in Mubarak's Era"]

[Text] In every political regime you can find positive things and wrong things. This is natural, for the ruler is human and not infallible. In my view the worst mistake which President Mubarak's regime committed since it assumed office was what happened on the ill-omened night of 3 April. On the night of that sad day the police arrested more than 1,000 persons. It was the biggest arrest campaign in Mubarak's entire era.

What is strange is that the campaign was not directed against terrorists or extremists but against those managing the electoral campaign of the tripartite alliance so as to confuse and weaken the alliance.

And because the government felt ashamed by what it had done and could find no justification for it, it imposed a semi-blackout on this grave mistake. Even the government clerks maintained total silence! The arrests that were carried out are conclusive evidence of the government's premeditated intention to tamper with and rig the elections.

What happened has harmed the reputation of our country in the eyes of the world and hurt Egypt more than its enemies could. History will fairly and impartially record that these arrests were a fatal mistake and all those who participated in them and endorsed them will be brought to account.

I had the honor of meeting some of these detainees and I must admit that they are among the cream of Egyptian youth. Unfortunately Mubarak's regime, which began its era with the release of detainees, has made the very mistake which it rectified in its first days.

Wrong and arbitrary detentions have become a natural thing with the increasing influence of the security organs in the past year, or, to be exact, since Zaki Badr became minister of the interior. The policy of this minister is based on repression, tyranny, and terror. The result of this foolish policy has been contrary to what he wished. The country has reached the point of explosion. Disturbances have broken out in several places, especially in the universities, and sectarian incidents have become more frequent than in past years. Mr President, the democracy we all want calls for dialogue and is contrary to Zaki Badr's mentality. What is required is for him to be replaced so that my country will enjoy stability. He is dragging it to the edge of the precipice. Beware of him and of his mentality. Beware, beware.

JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION PROTESTS POLICE TREATMENT

NC161644 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)--The Council of the Egyptian Journalists Association has unanimously denounced repeated attacks by some law enforcement personnel on working journalists. In a recent meeting chaired by doyen Ibrahim Nafi' the council voted to send a letter to the interior minister, calling on him to stop these assaults and bring those responsible to account.

In its letter to the minister the council referred to complaints submitted by several journalists, who say they have been assaulted while covering such recent events as the general elections, the Consultative Council elections, and certain popular gatherings in front of the Jewish synagogue.

The council deplored the fact that some security men had shown a lack of understanding of the nature of the journalists' work and their need to be at the scene of events. Some security forces have continually harassed journalists in certain ways. Journalists, the council said, have been verbally abused, been held in police stations, had their papers seized and cameras destroyed, and been prevented from performing their duties.

The council terms such acts attacks on the basic rights of citizens, whether journalists or not.

/9599
CSO: 4500/87

JERUSALEM ARABIC INTERVIEWS BUTRUS GHALI

JN091600 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] In an exclusive interview with Yitzhaq Halevi, our correspondent in Cairo, Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has spoken on the efforts being exerted to help convene an international conference:

[Being recording] [Correspondent] Dr Butrus Ghali, our greetings.

[Ghali] You are most welcome.

[Correspondent] Yesterday at the socialist international conference in Rome, Foreign Affairs Minister Shim'on Peres met with two Soviet officials to discuss with them an international peace conference on the Middle East conflict. Do you think such talks and meetings can contribute toward accelerating efforts to hold the desired conference?

[Ghali] There is no doubt such contacts will help consolidate and enhance the international conference idea. We also believe the international conference idea is an essential one because through an international conference we can activate the peace process and overcome the stalemate in peace efforts.

Peace requires that conditions for peace be present and the efforts which seek to bring about peace require action, negotiations, and dialogue. We also believe an international conference is the best framework for such action, such negotiations, and such dialogue.

[Correspondent] On another level, the Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister are continuing their intensive talks with senior U.S. officials in Washington on an international conference. How great are the differences in this regard among Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the United States, and the Palestinians? How can the stands of these parties be bridged?

[Ghali] Of course, there are differing opinions and stands which emerge when we look into the details on an international conference. These differences concern the way in which the conference is to be convened and the tasks of this conference. However, the important thing is that the idea is initiated and that contacts with all parties concerned are maintained.

I am confident these contacts will help us all overcome these differences which hinder convening an international conference. In other words, stalemate and the absence of any peace efforts are more dangerous and difficult than the difficulties we have to overcome to convene an international conference.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, once all these difficulties are overcome when will it be possible to convene the conference?

[Ghali] We hope to see an international conference convened at the earliest opportunity, because establishing international peace requires action and negotiation.

[Correspondent] Do you think Israeli-Egyptian relations have improved since the Alexandria meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Shim'on Peres? Has this improvement and progress begun to subside and retreat?

[Ghali] I can say this improvement will be enhanced if an international conference is convened.

[Correspondent] One last question, Dr Butrus Ghali. Egyptian radio has recently allowed the PLO representative in Cairo to harshly assail Isarel--something considered a violation of the agreements signed by the two countries. Is it possible to interpret this as a new change in the Egyptian point of view?

[Ghali] This is not a fluctuation or change in Egyptian stands. We believe we have to hear all opinions. When violations are committed in the occupied territories, whether these violations are related to a lack of respect for the rights of the Palestinian individual or to a lack of respect for the Geneva conventions, the PLO has the right to criticize these violations and then Egypt becomes dutybound to allow the PLO representative to use its radios to express his opinions.

Peace between Egypt and Israel does not mean we approve of all Israeli actions nor does it mean we cannot criticize Israel when it violates international laws. This also does not mean we cannot give the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people the chance to speak and criticize [Israeli] actions from here in Cairo. [End recording]

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CSO: 4500/87

MUBARAK LINKS RETURN OF LIBYAN PLANES, DETAINED EGYPTIANS

JN051100 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt does not turn away whoever seeks refuge in it. He said: We welcome whoever seeks refuge with us. We do not turn anybody away and nobody should expect us to strike at any aircraft resorting to Egypt.

In statements to journalists during his tour of al-Daqahliyah yesterday, President Mubarak said: Egypt does not want the two aircraft or any other aircraft. However, three Egyptians are being held in Libya and we want them. This is although it has been proven that Libya carried out the operation of the Egyptian plane which landed in Malta.

President Mubarak added: I say to them [the Libyans] give me the three Egyptians and you take your two aircraft, or tell me what the three Egyptians have done. Without the three Egyptians the two aircraft will not be returned. He who does not want asylum can go with God's care. However, we want the three Egyptians back.

AL-AKHBAR has learned that one of the three Egyptians detained by the Libyan authorities and held in a Libyan prison is a civilian from the Awlad 'Ali tribes which lives in the western desert. The Libyan authorities claim that he was spying on them. The two other persons are soldiers who were among the forces stationed on the border. They went out on a trip and were lost in the desert. They were detained by the Libyan authorities after they entered Libyan territory.

When their disappearance from their unit was noticed, their commander thought they were absent without leave. When they did not appear for a long time, it was suspected that they had been detained by the Libyans.

This information has been confirmed as the Libyans have admitted that they are holding the two soldiers, in addition to the civilian.

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CSO: 4500/87

AL-AHRAM ON MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ELECTION 'STRENGTH'

JN140659 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Apr 87 p 9

[The "Just an Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: "The Strength of the Muslim Brotherhood"]

[Text] Under the existing laws that are in force, which apparently place restrictions on obstacles in the way of those who contemplate forming a new party, the Muslim Brotherhood succeeded in finding a loophole through the law and assert themselves in the largest legislative body. Consequently, the claim that the parties law prevents the various parties from expressing themselves is totally divorced from reality. The Muslim Brotherhood, the Nasirites, and the communists all had a presence in the elections battle--they openly raised their slogans and identified themselves at the top of their voices.

The largest posters were for Muslim Brotherhood candidates. The entry of the Muslim Brotherhood has led--in addition to combining voting for independent candidates, a method known to all voters, with voting for candidates on a single ticket--to kindling the fires of enthusiasm among voters and to increasing the number of voters in the elections. In 1984, voters constituted approximately 43 percent [of the electorate], while in the latest elections they increased to 50.4 percent, despite the fact that the number of voters on the electoral list increased by approximately 2 million during the same period.

The entry of the Muslim Brotherhood has also changed the elections map from what it was in the 1984 elections, only 3 years ago.

It is natural for the Muslim Brotherhood to be ecstatic with their victory, but it is also necessary for them and for others to know the size of their electoral strength without exaggerating or belittling it. On examining the figures of the 1984 and 1987 elections to ascertain the size of their strength, the following was revealed:

1. In the 1984 elections the Wafd Party was allied with the Muslim Brotherhood and won 778,131 votes. In the 1987 elections the Wafd's share dropped to 746,024 votes.

2. In the 1984 elections the labor and liberal parties won 452, 863 votes: while in the latest elections in which the Muslim Brotherhood, labor, and liberal parties were allied, the alliance won 1,163,525 votes.

3. This means if we assume the increase in votes won by the new alliance was from the votes for the Muslim Brotherhood and their supporters, the number of votes won by the Muslim Brotherhood and their supporters for the alliance is 542,863 votes, approximately 8 percent of the total valid votes.

4. While the number of votes won by the alliance has increased by that amount, the number of votes won by the NDP in the latest elections increased by 1 million votes; that is, twice as many votes won by the Muslim Brotherhood. (The NDP won 3.7 million votes in the 1984 elections and 4.7 million votes in the 1987 elections.)

However, that cannot belittle the importance of the Muslim Brtherhood's entry into the People's Assembly, although it is important for all of the parties to know the strength of the various sources.

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CSO: 4500/86

INFORMATION MINISTER ISSUES STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS

JN150900 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 Apr 87 pp 1, 25

[Article by Muhammad Mustafa]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-SIYASAH following the announcement of the results of the recent elections, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the elections were held in an atmosphere of complete freedom and neutrality and that the opposition's allegations before the elections and its recent claims that the elections were rigged are baseless.

The information minister and the NDP assistant secretary general said that although the NDP Secretariat had issued strict directives banning any friction with the opposition, some committees were attacked by the opposition in several polling centers, adding that if the elections had been rigged, the Labor alliance would not have won 56 seats and the New Wafd 37 seats. Further evidence of the integrity of the elections is that one of the government ministers had lost because democracy does not distinguish between high-ranking and low-ranking people.

Regarding the extent of popular participation in the elections, Safwat al-Sharif said that it was high compared with the number of people registered on the electoral lists, adding that this indicates that the people have begun to understand the importance of their participation because such participation will enable them to make decisions in their own country. He also said that this is a positive phenomena, adding: We anticipated greater participation due to the existence of many parties, the current clear vision, and the atmosphere of freedom and democracy. Those who did not participate should not have stood by with their arms folded because every Egyptian has the right to exercise his political right.

Asked about the international news agencies' positions on the elections, Safwat al-Sharif said they had exaggerated their analyses and calculations, and some said that many people were killed or wounded in some villages. Regrettably, some radios quoted them. He also said that certain forces wanted to create a state of fear and skepticism to prevent the citizens from going to the polls. These news agencies misled the public opinion not only in Egypt, but also in the countries they represented because they did not verify the reports about the elections. Some news correspondents also tried to violate

the rules we had worked out to regulate coverage of the elections. However, the Information Ministry immediately dealt with such rumors.

Regarding the neutrality of the Egyptian media during the elections, Safwat al-Sharif said that the Egyptian media's interest in following up the elections was characterized by justice and equality, and all the parties took equal time and space [on radio and television] regardless of the number of seats and votes of each party. He added that to be fair to all parties, all the parties were given equal periods of time, stressing the need not to confuse the government's normal activity with the election campaigns. He also said that the people's response to this equality was clear, and that cables of support reached me and were carried by the Egyptian media.

Safwat al-Sharif asserted that this is a consistent policy of the Egyptian media and part of its overall strategy that takes into consideration the citizen's right to know and to be known. Such a policy is natural in the present stage, and is characterized by freedom and democracy.

Asked about the future of political life in light of the election results al-Sharif said: The coming stage is an important stage. We are embarking on a new 5-year plan, and we are seeking to achieve the Egyptians' dream of building Egypt economically, socially, and culturally. We want all the energies of the people to be harnessed into building their homeland. Thus the advent of the new People's Assembly comes at a time when Egypt is heading toward stability and development. The Assembly must shun all dialogue that does not achieve Egypt's interests, and must take upon itself the task of realizing the Egyptian national dream.

Asked about the proportion of votes won by the NDP in the elections Safwat al-Sharif said the NDP achieved an overwhelming majority that reflects its strength in the Egyptian political street, and had there been greater participation in the elections the NDP's share of the votes would have been greater.

Al-Sharif said the elections expressed a state of political stability as they did not differ greatly from the 1984 elections, with the exception of the alliance and the New Wafd exceeding the 8 percent proportion, particularly as the new elections law divides the votes of the party that fails to gain entry into the People's Assembly instead of the votes going to the party that wins the majority, as was the case in the past.

Asked about the possibility of changes in the NDP's formation Safwat al-Sharif said the NDP changed 52 percent of its deputies, and after the elections campaign the NDP will push forward the leaders who emerged in the campaign, for competition always yields leaders. The elections campaign and meetings has yielded cadres and youth. Every party must encourage the leaders who emerged in the elections campaign, the strong and capable men and women, so that they will have the opportunity and so that they can continue to make their contribution.

Asked about Mubarak's leadership of NDP Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak is a leader of all Egyptians and is not biased in favor of one party against another. In the final analysis it is the people who have the last word. It is the right of the minority to express its view but that does not mean that the majority should succumb to the minority. When he assumed the presidency President Mubarak emphasized that he is the president of all Egyptians and in all national stands does not discriminate between one party and another. However, President Mubarak believes in the ideas of the NDP on development and on achieving stability--and that can be achieved only through a political force that is led by him.

Al-Sharif added that Mubarak's leadership of the NDP is not strange, for in many countries the president is the leader of the ruling party.

Asked about the religious current in the People's Assembly the information minister said that this is natural because there is no reason to have reservations or that prevents us from expressing our views very clearly. We are for the interests of all citizens, and differences within the assembly are civilized differences. Everyone expresses his view and the last word is for the people represented by the party. We do not fear any democratic practices because it is understanding, awareness, and civilized attitudes that govern such practices.

Concluding his remarks to AL-SIYASAH the information minister urged Egyptians abroad to have confidence in the Egyptian media and in what they transmit for the Egyptian media is the voice of truth that is anxious to embody democracy, and urged them not to be disturbed if they should hear about some events reported by foreign press agencies, as the falsehood of such claims has been indisputably proven.

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CSO: 4500/87

OPPOSITION LEADER VIEWS ELECTIONS

JN191518 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 17 Apr 87 p 19

[Text] Cairo--In an exclusive statement to AL-SIYASAH, Eng Ibrahim Shukri, Egyptian Labor Party leader and head of the tripartite alliance among the Labor Party, Liberal Party, and Muslim Brotherhood, has affirmed that he expected the alliance to win 100 seats in the New People's Assembly at the very least. This was reflected during the election campaign, reactions during party meetings in the governorates, the response of public opinion, and the large turnout for opposition candidates during the election day, especially for the Labor Party. Moreover, the preliminary results received by the operations room set up by the Labor Party indicated the alliance was winning by a margin higher than the declared figure of 56 seats. Shukri added he had expected the Wafd party to win a greater number of seats because results indicated it was ahead in several constituencies and there were several opposition challenges in this regard.

Shukri affirmed that the number of seats the opposition should have won was reduced by 50 percent. He said that despite this, the number of seats the opposition won in the New Assembly can actually have a clear influence and effectiveness in creating a balance inside the assembly, provided there is coordination among the various opposition ranks to become an effective force against the majority of the ruling party inside the assembly and improve the assembly's performance on important and vital issues. Regarding the priorities of the new assembly, Shukri said this should be discussed within the framework of the defined tasks of the assembly. He said the new assembly's first task will be a discussion of the state budget which will be submitted by the government next month, that is, in a few days.

Shukri added this issue should be given greater attention and more efforts should be made in this regard because the previous assembly's discussion of the budget was ineffective and there was not sufficient monitoring. He said the opposition did not have the sufficient number of members to represent it in various committees and the information it received was insufficient. Therefore, he said, we hope the government will refrain from doing this until the budget is discussed on the date specified by the constitution. Shukri added: As far as the long-term solution is concerned, the assembly should revise the election law in view of the flaws shown by the results of the recent election campaign which led to violence. Therefore, the only guarantee

to prevent a repetition of such incidents is to revise these laws, especially since local council elections will be conducted in a few days.

Shukri added that among the assembly's first tasks should be discussing the application of Islamic Shari'ah as a main source of legislation in accordance with the letter of the constitution. He said this subject was discussed at length in the previous assembly on a number of occasions but this discussion was halted for one reason or another and sometimes for no reason at all. On alleged disputes within the alliance over opposition leadership in the assembly between the Muslim Brotherhood and Labor, Shukri said these rumors are baseless and that this subject was never raised. He said the opposite is true and that the Muslim brothers were clear from the start on the need to continue the alliance in the assembly and that all the candidates should be in the name of the Labor Party.

Shukri added that the main point many choose to ignore is that the agreement between Labor and the Muslim Brotherhood is not an agreement on leadership but on a program of action which has specific principles and bases. These principles and bases simply do not change and are fixed and this is the guarantee for the continuation of the alliance. In contrast, the alliance between the Wafd and the Muslim Brotherhood was not based on a joint program through which they could gain the confidence of voters.

Concluding his statement to AL-SIYASAH, Shukri said the election campaign expressed the masses' desire to participate and was characterized by a clear, positive response. However, this does not mean the masses achieved all of their expectations and desires. Shukri explained the large turnout as being due to allowing independent seats which does not necessitate joining any party. This was demonstrated by the fact that 2,000 independent candidates competed for 47 seats while 1,600 candidates competed for 400 seats within the party ticket system. He added the alliance attracted groups of voters who may not have voted before.

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CSO: 4500/86

AL-JUMHURIYAH COLUMNIST ON ELECTIONS, PARTIES

JN121107 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Apr 87 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The emergence of illegal parties is one of the surprises of the recent elections. The Egyptian Communist Party appeared in public with its leaflets, nominees, and propaganda. Of course, the party was defeated and its defeat was not felt by anyone. This party lost its legitimacy among the masses as it lost it according to the provisions of the law. Nevertheless, this party was existent in the elections and some of its symbols infiltrated into some other parties.

The Nasirite Party also emerged even though its endeavors to take part in the elections were restricted to attempts to ride on the back of the NDP. This party succeeded in its attempts to enroll some of its elements in the NDP. Despite this, some of this party's elements failed to deceive the NDP. Despite their hypocrisy, flattery, and all their statements, the NDP could not accept these worn-out and hypocritical faces.

Some other small parties appeared. These parties managed to utilize the battle to pronounce their slogans. These parties vanished in the heat of the battle, because the slogans that they upheld were against Egypt's nature, against the sentiments cherished by the man in the street, some of them upheld slogans that go against the attempts to apply Islamic Shari'ah and also demanded that the state be separated from religion. Because of all this, these parties found no helping hand, and consequently, they were drowned in the sea of elections.

The biggest surprise was the emergence of the Muslim Brotherhood. According to the law, the Brotherhood is an illegal group, nonexistent, and does not have the right to deal in politics or to promote its slogans among the people. Nonetheless, this group exploited the weakness of some legal parties, entered the elections on their tickets, manifested itself in a very clear manner, and put words into the mouths of leaders of legal parties. The Brotherhood's leaders spoke unequivocally in public and entered the People's Assembly, dragging behind them the weak legal parties which were unable to enter the People's Assembly in 1984 by themselves.

The Muslim Brotherhood will be put to the test before the people. People will go either for or against it in light of its practices. People will follow its conduct in the People's Assembly with concern. The ideas, solutions, and opinions proposed and expressed by this group as well as its practices in the People's Assembly will determine whether this group will be a loser or a winner. There will be an interest in this group. People will try to know whether this group believes in the other parties' right to have different opinions or whether it will try to impose its opinion on others.

All this leads us to a discussion of the parties' law. Why should this law be allowed to continue to shackle the efforts to form political groups? Why should not political parties of all tendencies and leanings be allowed to operate in Egypt when we know that the final arbiter is the ballot box? The experience in this regard is both successful and tempting. Why do we in Egypt not have a royal party, a republican party, a Nasirite party, a Communist party, a workers' party, a peasants' party, and a businessmen's party? Of course, these will not be the names of the new parties, but the new parties can promote the ideas of the above-mentioned categories or classes.

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CSO: 4500/86

COLUMNIST VIEWS ELECTIONS, ATTACKS ON ISLAM

JN111916 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Apr 87 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The elections are over but people will talk about them for a long time to come, at least until the judiciary passes judgment on the constitutionality of the election system. Will the new assembly stay or be dissolved if it turns out the elections were conducted under an unconstitutional system? There will also be talk about the ticket election system. Will it stay after it has been confirmed that most voters shied away from ballot boxes because people preferred the independent ticket election system? Will the turnout of voters be regarded as some form of referendum on the ticket election system? Can we consider those who did not take part as being opposed to the ticket election system? Will the talks about the ticket election system spread to the Consultative Council and local councils?

Such a great deal of talk and debate means that the people are concerned about democracy, its continuation, and escalation until it becomes a complete and true democracy. Success breeds success, and our strides toward democracy have thus far been successful. Those who advocated a one-party system, custodianship of the people, and terrorism lost. The progress of the election battle means that the police succeeded in administering the battle. Those who lived through the free elections before the revolution know that the excesses cannot be compared to the excesses by the parties and police before the revolution. Election day passed quietly and in an unprecedented manner compared to what used to take place before the revolution despite the charging of the atmosphere before the elections by the government, the communists, or the Muslim brothers. This charging of the atmosphere reached the point of threatening to explode. However, this did not happen, praised be to God, because the people dislike violence by nature.

However, the most dangerous part of the election propaganda stage was the fact that we submitted Islam as a topic for discussion and a voting issue. The enemies of Islam came out with strange and serious propositions about Islam which expose Islam to danger, and they imagined that their hypocritical attack on Islam would appease the government. The government must immediately stop this. The constitution stipulates that Egypt is an Islamic country and that the Islamic Shari'a is the main source of legislation. We all agree that

Islam is a religion and state law and we also agree on the exclusion of a government based on men of religion. The attack on Islam reached the point where it was demanded that some chapters of the Koran and religious programs be canceled and construction of mosques halted. Those who did this imagined that they were expressing loyalty to the government. However, the government has nothing to do with them, and it must assert its respect for the call of Islam. Otherwise, it would be unreasonable for Egypt to have a party which advocates apostasy and not one that advocates Islam.

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CSO: 4500/86

ISLAMIC ALLIANCE ELECTORAL PROGRAM

PM070823 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Mar 87 p 3

[Unattributed "summary" of Islamic Alliance Election program: "Solution of Economic Problems Begins with Faith, Ethics, and Virtues"]

[Text] 1. Reforming government system through correct democracy:

This section calls for the constitution to be reviewed through a constituent assembly so that the president of the republic and the vice president will be elected directly and the executive power is assumed by a government enjoying the people's confidence and is held accountable to it. It also calls for:

The abolition of laws and practices contrary to democracy, the lifting of the state of emergency, and the release of all detainees.

The provision of safeguards ensuring impartiality and freedom of general elections and the abolition of the election system based on party lists, while the workers and peasants are to be represented through candidates whose character is recognized by trade unions and agricultural cooperatives.

With regard to the judiciary, the program calls for the judiciary to continue to be bolstered by making all its affairs the jurisdiction of the Higher Judiciary Council which is headed by the president of the Court of Appeal and banning judges and prosecution officials from performing the duties of the executive authority in order to preserve the independence of the judiciary authority in deciding the right to directly contest the constitutionality of laws.

2. Application of the Islamic Shari'ah:

The application of the Shari'ah is a religious duty and a national need and is consistent with the constitutional rules. While accepting the need for the passage of a period of time in order to complete its implementation, we demand that the principle be recognized immediately in deeds and not in words and put it into effect.

Ijtihad [independent legal judgment based on Islamic laws] is needed in order to deal with all contemporary problems. This is an all-embracing task in

which people of various specializations and not the legislator alone will participate.

The brother Copts are citizens of the desired Islamic state enjoying the same rights and obligations as Muslims. This is the basis of the spirit of Egyptian brotherhood that has continuously existed between the two major religions in Egypt throughout the centuries.

[In a separate box the paper publishes the following amplification of the above in boldface type: "The brother Copts are citizens of the desired Islamic state enjoying the same rights and obligations as Muslims. If Islam is the religion of the great majority of the Egyptians, the culture and history it has established belong to all those who have participated in development under the Islamic state. Anyone living on Egyptian soil is an inheritor of the same traditions, custom, and arts of which he is a trustee. This is the basis of the Egyptian brotherhood that has continually existed between the two major religions in Egypt throughout the centuries. This is also the basis of complementary work to build their future, the basis on which all the Egyptians will thwart the intrigues and seditions that are aimed against their unity, security, and stability of their homeland."]

3. Promoting virtue and repulsing corruption:

State officials must set a good example in adherence to the tenets of Islamic and religious virtues in all personal behavior.

No ethics without religion. All educational means should be marshalled in order to promote alternative values [as published]. This applies to the media, cinema, television, theater, and music as well as the family.

Supporting mosques, restoring their universal message, giving freedom to Islamic preachers, and reviving the Senior Ulemas Body from among which the shaykh of al-Azhar is to be elected.

Abolishing state-owned liquor factories, banning gambling, and prohibiting the existence of places of unlawful entertainment.

Blocking all the loopholes which the Zionists and others exploit in order to secretly make unlawful payments to individuals with the aim of corrupting them. This necessitates revising the law on illicit profiteering, banning nepotism and making exceptions, and giving reasons for rejecting or accepting bids.

Declassification of reports prepared by state control organs.

4. Culture and information:

A movement for cultural revival and intellectual rejuvenation are essential so that the nation will go back to its Arab and Islamic cultural roots and shed Western and European phenomena.

Reviving the movement of publishing the cultural heritage and making such publications available at low prices.

Turning the official media into a national media expressing the various views and adhering to honesty. Cancelling state ownership of newspapers.

Giving freedom of publication of newspapers and abolishing the Press Authority.

5. Tackling daily life problems:

We demand genuine and practical solutions and reject the USAID and the IMF directions that negate state independence and lead to the worsening of problems.

We demand a halt to rising prices. This necessitates an end to dealing with the budget deficit by printing more money.

Cutting back state expenditure by curbing extravagant and wasteful spending and halting spending on all the many useless projects.

Establishing a specialized department for prices that would follow up prices and prevent the multiplicity of middlemen between the producer and consumer, while continuing the subsidy of basic commodities.

6. Economic development:

Islamic renaissance calls for a growing economy that would dispense with our need to beg from our enemies. Consequently our economic program should be based on the principle of self-reliance in all production fields in accordance with Islamic priorities, which are necessities followed by other goods.

Self-reliance demands the integration of Arab economies, particularly in the field of food, wheat production, and the production of defense means.

Economizing on consumption in all fields and linking it to production.

Facilitating investment in legitimate fields in accordance with the priorities of production and consumption needs and in order to ensure full employment for the available manpower.

The achievement of the above requires the intervention of the state in order to define priorities and policies.

7. National security and foreign relations:

Egypt is part of the Arab nation and is linked to it. It is also the throbbing heart of the Islamic world which is its protective shield.

This involves strengthening the Egyptian Army in the face of our enemies. But this role can be successfully played only if it is based on economic and military integration with the Arab and Islamic world and only if we distance ourselves from the influence of the big powers and adhere to the principles of nonalignment.

We demand that the Soviet Union withdraw from Afghanistan and at the same time condemn the repeated U.S. aggression against Arab countries and interests.

We caution against the special ties with the United States in view of its strategic agreement with Israel and its stand of blatant partiality with it. So that no harm will befall our national security we must refrain from giving them [the Americans] military facilities.

We must not accept conditional foreign aid and demand the freezing of the Camp David agreement. This calls for a total boycott of the Israeli presence in Egypt.

Support must be given to our Palestinian brothers' struggle against the plans aimed at annihilating them and to our brothers in Lebanon against the plans aimed at dispersing them.

Assertion of the popular character of measures and phenomena of the special and lasting relations between Egypt and Sudan.

Seeking to remove differences between the Islamic countries, consolidate ties with them, and end the war raging between Iraq and Iran.

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CSO: 4500/87

'ABD-AL-MAJID ON MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE

NC210901 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)--Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that Egypt is working with all concerned parties to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He said that the conference must lead to a comprehensive settlement of all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, secure the restoration of all occupied Arab territories and all of the Palestinian people's national rights, and permit the coexistence, in peace and security, of all of the region's peoples and states.

In an interview published in today's edition of the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, the foreign minister said that Egypt's efforts are well-planned, and that they were launched some time ago at all levels, including contact with all influential international parties and powers. He said: Our action reflects the explicit goal that we are trying to achieve and a full awareness of all Arab and international positions.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid declared that coordination and consultations with Jordan and the PLO are progressing well. He said that contacts with Israel succeeded in securing its agreement to the convocation of the international conference, noting that this is a great accomplishment. Contacts with the United States, he continued, have influenced it to agree on the concept of a conference.

The foreign minister went on to say that Egypt is also continuing its contacts with the Soviet Union and the EEC. He asserted that Egypt supports the PLO's right to choose its representatives from among the Palestinians, noting that the conference must have Palestinian representatives as well as those of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, for all are active parties to the issue.

The foreign minister declared that an Arab consensus on the concept of the conference exists, noting that the Arabs have accepted the principle of negotiation as the best means of resolving the Middle East problem. He explained that the Arabs agreed on an international conference in the Fes summit resolutions, and stressed: We now need to resolve our inter-Arab differences, for they are distracting us from our goals. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid called on the Arabs to unify their approach to other parties to the issue and

not to waste any more time. The foreign minister also expressed the hope that the Palestinians will agree on a formula so as not to miss their current opportunity.

In conclusion, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Palestinian issue is not a case of refugees, but a matter involving the legitimate national rights of a people, and noted that action must be initiated to recover the Palestinians' rights.

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CSO: 4500/86

AL-AKHBAR ON PEACE CONFERENCE, ALGIERS PNC MEETING

NC120544 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)--In its Sunday edition AL-AKHBAR comments on efforts being made at all levels to prepare for an international conference on peace in the Middle East, noting the intense efforts of Egypt and Jordan.

The paper says that Egypt recently made the issue of the international conference one of the primary platforms of its foreign strategy, through coordination with Jordan. It notes that King Husayn's current tour of a number of European states falls within the framework of this coordination with Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR notes the importance of the upcoming PNC meeting, to take place in Algeria on 22 April, affirming that the main topic on the agenda will be defining a firm PLO stand on the international peace conference. The paper cites Egypt's steadfast assertion that it will accept no other representatives of the Palestinians, that the PLO is their sole legitimate voice. Egypt expects the Palestinians at the Algiers conference to work first toward achieving their own interests, but at the same time the paper asserts that Egypt will allow no one to harm it, through even a single word, because it has made sacrifices for the Palestinian cause unmatched by any other country.

In conclusion, the paper appeals to the PNC to work for a firm stand against attempts to tamper with the cards of the Palestinian issue. It expresses hope that the Palestinians will realize they are the only party which can resolve their problem.

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CSO: 4500/87

AL-'ARABI ON TABAH ARBITRATION IN GENEVA

NC230928 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)--Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks and chief of the Legal Department at the Foreign Ministry, returned to Cairo from Geneva early this morning, following an 8-day visit to Switzerland.

Upon arrival, Dr al-'Arabi told MENA that he had supervised the final formulation of the Egyptian defense memorandum [mudhakirat difa']. The memorandum will be submitted to the international arbitration committee by 15 May.

Dr al-'Arabi stated that the memorandum presents Egypt's view of the Tabah dispute from the historical, legal, and geographical standpoints.

Dr al-'Arabi added that Israel will submit a memorandum at the same time. Each side will, 5 months from the date of submission, respond to the other's memorandum before the verbal presentation [murafa'at] begins. The arbitration committee will then have 3 months to consider its final verdict.

In conclusion, Dr al-'Arabi said that Egypt stands on solid ground and that the Egyptian view is supported by definitive evidence and documents.

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CSO: 4500/86

AL-AKHBAR ON ABROGATION OF AMMAN ACCORD

NC160729 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)--Whatever motives or reasons prompted the PLO to abrogate the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the AL-AKHBAR newspaper asserts, we do not support this step. Egypt still believes that Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to reach a peaceful settlement is a fundamental and vital factor to achieve peace in the region.

In the commentary scheduled to appear in tomorrow's issue, AL-AKHBAR says: We would have preferred not to see this agreement killed for the sake of a reconciliation which does not serve the interests of the Palestinians as much as it seeks to satisfy the Syrian regime, which controls certain Palestinian factions.

The paper notes that one negative result of the abrogation of this agreement will be the impeding of diplomatic efforts currently being made by King Husayn of Jordan to convince the European states of the need to hold an international peace conference attended by the PLO. Our rejection of such a step stems from a fundamental and firm belief in the need to exert all possible efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian people are waiting for such a solution. In the meantime, they are suffering from the calamities of Isareli occupation or from the misery of Syrian-Shi'ite occupation in Lebanese camps, the paper adds.

Concluding its commentary, the paper hopes that the PNC meeting will come up with some concrete results. Otherwise, the Palestinians will lose everything for nothing.

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CSO: 4500/87

'ABD-AL-MAJID INTERVIEWED ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT, ARAB TIES

JN050720 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 2 Apr 87 p 27

[Interview with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Ulfat Qatamish in Cairo--date not given]

[Text] [Qatamish] The problems of the Arab nation are increasing daily. How do you view the overall situation of the Arab nation, and how can these problems be overcome?

['Abd-al-Majid] Without a doubt the Arab nation is facing difficult circumstances and challenges which threaten the Arab destiny and entity. The Arab countries have no choice but to face up to their responsibilities and exert every effort to end the differences and divisions which have weakened the Arabs' ability, wasted their energies and resources, and harmed their joint action to support the Arab nation's causes and interests. We call for achieving Arab solidarity and for trying to base relations on sound and strong bases away from futile polemics and wagering. We also believe in the need to unify ranks and positions in order to support the Arab move to regain the Palestinian people's national rights, to confront the dangers resulting from the continuation of the war in the Gulf region, and to end the bloodshed and the dissipation of Arab energies in Lebanon.

[Qatamish] The Palestine question is stumbling, occasionally advancing slowing toward the right solution. Is there anything new on the near or far horizons?

['Abd-al-Majid] Egypt spares no efforts to take serious and honest steps toward reaching a just settlement of the Palestine question based on respect for the Palestinian people's full rights, especially their right to self-determination. Our contacts are continuous and extensive on all levels and with all parties concerned in the region as well as with the international sides in order to prepare for the convening of an international peace conference, especially since the principle of convening such a conference has become acceptable to the majority because it represents the only current realistic way to find a solution to the problem based on the implementation of the UN resolutions within the framework of the international legitimacy. Egypt's move is not governed by an selfish or narrow considerations. Our aim is to seize the current opportunity to achieve a just peace in our region. We

appeal to the other parties concerned to face up to their responsibilities and play a positive role in this issue so we may continue our move toward a solution to the Palestine question. We believe that the Palestinians' participation in the international conference is essential, and we cannot imagine that an international conference on the Palestine question can be convened in the absence of the Palestinian element. It is up to the PLO to determine Palestinian participation and those who will participate.

[Qatamish] What about Peres' recent visit to Cairo?

['Abd-al-Majid] Peres' visit came within the framework of the continuous Egyptian efforts with all parties, as I mentioned, to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to solve the Palestine question. It is clear to everyone that Egypt is the only party capable of talking with and contacting all other parties. In all these contacts we are concerned about the Palestinian and Arab rights and interests and we will never sell them out or bargain with them. Peres' visit to Cairo aimed to continue dialogue with the Israeli side in continuation of the meeting between President Mubarak and Peres, who was then Israeli prime minister, in Alexandria last September. That meeting resulted in achieving Israel's acceptance of holding an international peace conference. The joint communique issued by the Cairo meeting frankly stresses Israel's commitment to this acceptance and also calls to make 1987 the year for convening this conference. It further stipulates that the conference aims to solve all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

[Qatamish] Were there contacts with Jordanian King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat to brief them on the results of the official talks Israeli Foreign Minister Peres held in Cairo?

['Abd-al-Majid] Consultations and coordination are continuous between President Mubarak and King Husayn and also with Yasir 'Arafat and the exchange of viewpoints and information takes place constantly. We are anxious to inform Jordan and the PLO of all our effort for the sake of the objective for which all of us aspire which is a just peace and a solution to the Palestine question.

[Qatamish] What is the U.S. stand on such visits?

['Abd-al-Majid] Undoubtedly, the United States supports the efforts to promote the peace process in the region and, through a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, it welcomed Peres' visit to Cairo. We hope the United States will continue to play an effective role in working for peace and stability both in our region and in the world.

[Qatamish] The international Middle East peace conference requires reaching a point of agreement among the parties concerned in order for it to materialize. How can this be achieved?

['Abd-al-Majid] The international conference constitutes a framework for negotiations in which all the parties concerned participate on equal footing. The concept of an international conference has gained unanimous international support, including the support of the parties concerned. What is important now is to maintain the current impetus and that all parties try to create the right atmosphere so as to prepare well for convening the conference. The next stage should also witness intensified efforts to reach agreement on the tasks of the conference and the procedural and legal affairs related to it. We are doing our utmost and we must not play down the existing difficulties. However, the issue does not depend on Egypt only, and as I said before, the parties concerned should assume their responsibilities. We urge the Arab and Palestinian sides to close ranks and adopt a unified stand, because this constitutes a source of strength to the Arab side during the stage of preparing for the conference and during future negotiations. We as Arabs must not allow the forces which seek to hamper the peace process to freeze the situation because this would lead to further loss of Arab rights.

There are also contacts between Egypt and the United States. Progress has been noticed in the U.S. stand concerning the international conference idea. Contacts are currently taking place on the nature and objectives of the conference, which are the points of difference. The recent meetings in Cairo between President Mubarak and King Husayn, between President Mubarak and Hani al-Hasan, and the U.S. ambassador's visit [as published] have all revolved around the international conference. It is clear that Egypt is the only side which holds dialogue with all parties.

[Qatamish] What is Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process?

['Abd-al-Majid] Jordan is one of the major parties to the Middle East crisis, along with the PLO and the other Arab sides. His Majesty King Husayn has pioneering pan-Arab stands and exerts sincere efforts, which are appreciated by all sides, to safeguard the Arab and Palestinian rights and to reach a peaceful settlement to guarantee these rights. We believe that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is necessary at the current stage to bolster the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied West Bank and to guarantee a strong Arab stand at any future negotiations.

[Qatamish] What is the role of the king of Morocco?

['Abd-al-Majid] There is no doubt that His Majesty King Hassan has taken national [Qawmiyah] stands on both the Arab and Muslim levels that are worthy of appreciation. We will never forget the Moroccan people's support for the Egyptian people during the October 1973 war. His majesty has also contributed to the peace efforts in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Egypt had already welcomed every step that aims to break the deadlock in the march for peace. Egyptian-Moroccan relations are growing in a satisfactory manner that reflects the fraternal relations that bind our two countries.

[Qatamish] What is your view of the situation in Lebanon?

['Abd-al-Majid] I ask, will supporting one Lebanese faction against another solve the problem? In whose interest are the continued massacres in Lebanon and the shedding of Lebanese and Palestinian blood by Arab hands?

Regrettably, what is happening is painful and sad. Only those who want to dismember Lebanon, weaken the Arabs, and seek to keep the Arab forces preoccupied and divert them from their supreme causes of destiny benefit from such a situation. Egypt's stand is clear and consistent. We support the legitimate authorities in Lebanon and we emphasize the need for Lebanon's legitimate authorities to exercise sovereignty throughout Lebanon. We appeal to all powers to take their hands off Lebanon. We are confident that thanks to their nobility and awareness the Lebanese people will then be able to rally their ranks and restore stability to their homeland.

[Qatamish] What about relations between Egypt and Sudan? What is new in these relations?

['Abd-al-Majid] Egyptian-Sudanese relations are progressing from good to better. They are constantly being strengthened, and in a manner that reflects the longstanding and special ties that bind the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Egypt was a culmination of numerous meetings and contacts between officials of the two countries on various levels. The visit has given strong impetus to relations between the two countries due to the anxiousness of both the Egyptian and Sudanese leaders to maintain these relations and to develop them in a practical and well-studied manner so that they will serve the interests of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. The Brotherhood Charter signed during the visit embodies the enlightened political will that is based on a popular consensus in the climate of freedom and democracy that exists in the two countries.

[Qatamish] Is there any cooperation between you and the Arab foreign ministers, particularly following Egypt's participation in the recent Islamic summit?

['Abd-al-Majid] There is effective cooperation between me and many Arab foreign ministers to serve Arab causes and interests and to strengthen relations between our countries. Contacts between us are characterized by mutual respect and understanding. I wish to say that the existence of occasional differences between us in views and judgments is natural. What is important is that we handle such differences in a constructive spirit free of vituperation for we have the same objective.

[Qatamish] What is the status of your relations with Libya?

['Abd-al-Majid] Our policy toward all neighboring states is based on a firm principle to which we are committed; namely, observing the rules of good neighborliness. We harbor only love and brotherly sentiments toward the

Libyan people. We always take care not to escalate differences and tension with any fraternal Arab state.

[Qatamish] What is the story of the Libyan soldiers who sought refuge in Egypt recently; how does Egypt deal with them?

['Abd-al-Majid] Egypt has revealed all the facts concerning the Libyan military aircraft which the Egyptian authorities allowed to land at Abu Sunbul airport at the request of the aircraft's crew. The same also applies to the other plane which landed at an airport in the western region. The personnel aboard the two planes were treated well in line with the humanitarian considerations which Egypt observes in such circumstances.

The crews of both planes applied for political asylum in Egypt. Their applications are being considered in accordance with the Egyptian constitution and in line with Egypt's ancient traditions and the international rules for granting political asylum. I would like to make it clear that we are trying to deal with the whole issue and to settle it calmly and rationally, based on the principles that I have just outlined in terms of our desire not to escalate differences or tensions with any Arab state.

[Qatamish] Do you think that the present level of democracy which is given in Egypt at this stage is adequate?

['Abd-al-Majid] First of all, I would like to point out that democracy is not given or granted. It is an acquired right which we all work to entrench and strengthen in accordance with the circumstances of our society through sincere, objective practices.

No just-minded person can dispute the fact that Egypt democracy, the guarantees of freedom and security to people of various political affiliations is a pioneering phenomenon in our Arab world not to say in many world regions. This phenomenon is being developed positively and objectively under the present constitution and within the Egyptian political leadership's desire to entrench it in order to realize people's genuine rights and aspirations without paying attention to recriminations and accusations.

[Qatamish] Is it possible to have more political parties in Egypt?

['Abd-al-Majid] No doubt, the current political parties with their various programs are representing the various political currents in Egypt. Egyptian law also guarantees independent elements their role in politics. The right to form new parties is also allowed within rules defined by law.

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CSO: 4500/87

COPTIC POPE SAYS NO SECTARIAN SEDITION

NC031639 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Apr (MENA)--Shinudah II, pope of Alexandria and patriarch of St Mark's Church in Egypt, has asserted that sectarian sedition is a phenomenon that is foreign to Egypt and that it has been artificially created there.

In an interview published in today's edition of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, he said that Egypt believes in peaceful coexistence and amity. He remarked that Muslims and Christians have been coexisting for centuries in Egypt, adding that there has been no fundamental reason nor even a single justification for some recent events in Upper Egypt.

Pope Shinudah emphasized that he will not visit Jerusalem except with all his Arab and Muslim brothers. He affirmed that the Coptic Church has called upon all Copts to refrain from visiting occupied Jerusalem, and declared: We refuse to visit Israel out of our feelings of support for the Palestinian cause. He added: We will not adopt a special or unilateral position on this issue.

He emphasized that Dayr al-Sultan [Coptic Monastery in Jerusalem] belongs to the Egyptian church, and recalled that he had taken the matter to Israeli courts, which ruled that this monastery should be handed back to the Egyptian church. The Israeli Government, however, refuses to implement the ruling, he said.

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CSO: 4500/87

MUBARAK MESSAGE TO COPTIC POPE ON EASTER

JN211359 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Cable from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Coptic Pope Shanudah III, pope of Alexandria and patriarch of the missionary Province of St Mark, on the occasion of Easter; date not given]

[Text] I am pleased to send to your holiness and to the brother Copts my sincerest, heartfelt congratulations on celebrating the glorious occasion of Easter.

Our people, who embraced Jesus Christ's call for amity, for fraternity, for the abandonment of hatred and grudges, and for the removal of fanaticism and hostilities, have believed in Islam which is the religion of right, justice, and freedom. They have also stood fast, with their Muslims and Copts and through a solid national unity during their lengthy militant history, against all attempts aimed at undermining their freedom, dignity, and unity. The Egyptian people, who abandoned fragmentation and divisions and who have been exemplary in coexistence will remain, with God's help and through the potentials and sublime spiritual values they possess, able to add further large achievements to their great civilized assets in all fields to attain a better, more brilliant future.

I ask God, the Almighty, to guide us to the correct road so that we will bring to our cherished homeland, Egypt, all that we aspire to in terms of good, prosperity, power, and development.

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CSO: 4500/86

ENVOY TO SUDAN COMMENTS ON ARMS SMUGGLING AT BORDER

NC220955 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)--Husayn Musharrafah, Egypt's ambassador to Sudan, returned to Cairo from Khartoum this morning after concluding his term of office there.

Upon arrival, Ambassador Musharrafah stated that he is carrying a message to President Mubarak from the chairman of the Sudanese State Council in connection with his invitation to President Mubarak to visit Khartoum.

Musharrafah added that he is carrying another message to Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi from the Sudanese prime minister. The message deals with preparations for the next meeting of the joint higher ministerial committee, due to begin in Khartoum in implementation of the brotherhood charter signed by both countries.

Commenting on the situation in Sudan, Ambassador Musharrafah said that the security situation is reassuring. He noted that the widely spread reports on the coup attempt are completely groundless and that they stem from impressions made after martial law was partially lifted.

He added that the Sudanese border areas with Libya and Chad have been the scene of a number of armed robberies as a result of arms smuggling by various parties. He noted that the government is currently sending reinforcements to this area.

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CSO: 4500/86

STUDIES COMPLETED FOR NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

JN191957 Cairo AL-JUMHIRIYAH in Arabic 18 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Muhammad Khalifah]

[Text] Studies have been completed on establishing an Egyptian space agency. Egyptian space scientists and space-related bodies are to be incorporated into the space agency. Eng Sa'd Sha'ban, head of the President's Office and member of the Space Higher Committee of the Scientific Research Academy, has said that Egypt's withdrawal from Arabsat was a political decision made despite the fact Egypt paid 2,500,000 Egyptian pounds toward satellite construction. Arabsat is experiencing difficulties which we hope will be overcome, he added.

Addressing a conference on the development of education at engineering schools, Sha'ban said a remote sensing center in Egypt receives pictures picked up by an earth satellite in southern Italy. Egypt ought to have its own station, he said. Sha'ban urged for more attention to space science and aviation and for these disciplines to be introduced into university curricula.

Other nations have not been disheartened by the vast progress made by the two superpowers, he said, citing France which broke the American monopoly of satellite macro-photography.

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CSO: 4500/86

ABU GHAZALAH INTERVIEWED BY UAE PAPER

NC131620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Apr (MENA)--Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has described the Iran-Iraq war as pointless, from both the political and the military points of view. He also expressed his surprise at Iran's insistence on continuing the war for a 7th year, despite the failure of all the Iranian attacks on Iraq and despite the fact that Iranian losses are much greater than those of Iraq. He ruled out the possibility that Iran could close the Strait of Hormuz in the near future, explaining that the missiles which Iran recently installed near the strait are just there as a threat.

In an interview published in the UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today, Field Marshal Abu-Ghazalah also declared that Egyptian forces will not be sent to take part in the Gulf War should the balance of power tilt in Iran's favor. He affirmed Egypt's clear-cut stand, which President Mubarak has stated on numerous occasions, of not interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. He said that Egypt always keeps its word.

Field Marshal Abu-Ghazalah said that Egypt's security and that of the Gulf states are one and the same thing. He indicated that the Arab Gulf states have the final say in defining the form, kind, and timing of any action, cooperation, or measure taken in coordination with Egypt.

Asked about the number of Egyptian forces in Sinai and whether they are keeping pace with the increase in the Israeli forces, Field Marshal Abu-Ghazalah said: There are currently more Egyptian forces in Sinai than there have ever been, either before or during the war with Israel. He declared that the current forces are quite sufficient to defend Sinai. He said that any talk that the Camp David agreement placed restrictions on the size of these forces is inaccurate.

Answering another question on the reductions that have taken place in the numbers of Egyptian forces since the end of the war with Israel, Abu-Ghazalah said: It is true that there have been reductions. He pointed out, however, that the efficiency of any armed forces depends on one thing--their combat readiness and ability to carry out the military tasks assigned to them. Elaborating further, he stated: There are two schools of military thought.

One favors quantity, the other quality. Egypt supports the second, and believes that the Armed Forces should always be developed to the highest possible degree. This will help Egypt shift from a war economy, depending on hundreds of thousands of men under arms, to a peacetime economy that reduces the number of men under arms while maintaining their defensive combat capabilities.

Regarding Libyan intervention in Chad, Abu-Ghazalah said that this has a bearing on the situation of the brothers in the Gulf. He explained that this intervention has opened up a new front for the Arabs to concern themselves with, in addition to the Iraq-Iran war.

In his interview with AL-ITTIHAD, Field Marshal Abu-Ghazalah stated that he had met with the Libyan military men who requested political asylum in Egypt, as part of the military measures connected with this affair. He indicated, however, that any decision to give them political asylum will be a political one.

Concerning the Soviet Union's positive stand on the problem of Egypt's debts, Abu-Ghazalah said: This represents a good step toward improving Egyptian-Soviet relations. The Soviet Union has shown readiness to supply Egypt with spare parts for Eastern Bloc weapons if it requests this.

On Egyptian-U.S. relations, Abu-Ghazalah stated: They are good and improving, especially with regard to reducing the debt burdens.

Referring to the difficulties facing the manufacture of the Mirage 2000 plane, Abu-Ghazalah said: We lack the necessary financing. Because of Egypt's economic problems, this matter has been shelved until the crisis becomes less acute.

Concluding his interview, Abu-Ghazalah declared: Egypt currently produces highly effective weapons and is ready to meet the Arab states' arms requirements. He expressed the hope that the Arab nation will achieve self-reliance in armaments.

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CSO: 4500/86

OPPOSITION PAPER BLAMES ISRAEL FOR CONTAMINATED FOOD

PM220903 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 13 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by Muhammad al-Minyawi: "International Organizations Warn Egypt of Commodities Imported From Israel"]

[Text] Muhammad al-Minyawi writes:

The Egyptian authorities have discovered that the food consignments agreed to be imported from Israel during the period from June of last year until the end of last January, which included canned food, apples, dried fruit and nuts, and spices, were in fact of Turkish origin. The consignments included Turkish matches as well.

International reports revealed that Israel has entered into a contract with Turkey with a view to burying nuclear-contaminated products for a fee set by Israel.

The Israeli authorities transported the commodities to Israel, rewrapped and repacked them, and sent them to Egypt. But this venality was discovered when the Egyptian authorities learned of a warning issued by the FAO and the WHO to the European states to caution their citizens not to purchase any food commodities imported from Israel into Egypt because all information confirmed that all the commodities were in fact contaminated. The last consignment of dried fruit arrived in Port Said, preceded by a consignment of apples which were sold for 2.40 pounds in Port Said's markets.

The canned food included juices, preserved fruits, tomato puree, chocolates, and candies.

Reports have confirmed that an Israeli plot is being implemented to destroy the Egyptian people.

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CSO: 4500/86

BRIEFS

FAILED ELECTORAL ALLIANCE SCORED--Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)--Muhammed Abu al-Fadl al-Jizawi, member of the Executive Committee of the opposition Socialist Labour Party, said the deal concluded between the Labour Party, the Liberals Party, and the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood Society is an illegal alliance which has had an impact on the general political life in Egypt. Al-Jizawi condemned yesterday's decision of the Labour Party's Central Committee on dismissing four of its members, namely Mamduh Qinawi, 'Abd al-Majid Abu Zayd, Husam al-Din Husayn Kamil, and Muhammad Abu al-Fadl al-Jizawi. Al-Jizawi called for convening an emergency congress to discuss these acts and withdraw confidence from leaders who deviated from the party's statutes and wasted its unity. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 2057 GMT 15 Apr 87] /9599

QATARI EDUCATION MINISTER--Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)--President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, Qatari minister of education, in the Presidency Headquarters in Heliopolis this morning. The meeting was attended by Education Minister Muhammad Fathi Surur and (Sultan al-Kawwari), head of the Qatari interests mission in Cairo. The Qatari guest arrived in Cairo last Saturday on a visit that will last for several days. Following his meeting with the president, the Qatari education minister stated that he had conveyed a verbal message to President Mubarak from Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani on consolidating bilateral relations in various fields. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Apr 87] /9599

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY DELEGATION--President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received members of the League of Islamic Universities' Executive Council at the Presidency in Heliopolis. Al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, and al-Azhar University Rector Dr al-Sa'di Farhud attended the meeting. Following the session, Dr Mahjub said that it had been fruitful and that the president was glad to receive the Islamic Universities delegation. Members of the delegation, Mahjub said, praised Egypt for its leading role in supporting Islamic universities. For his part, Dr Farhud said that those who attended the meeting agreed on the need for Muslims to unite, develop their understanding of Islam, and use this understanding to resolve their problems and settle their differences. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Apr 87] /9599

HOSPITAL INAUGURATED--President Husni Mubarak arrived in Asyut Governorate early this morning as part of his field tours of governorates to inspect new projects and meet with political and popular leaders. The president is accompanied by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister, and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture. Upon his arrival, the president was welcomed by the ministers of information, interior, and local government and the Asyut governor. After his arrival the president inaugurated the University Hospital in Asyut. The hospital is on a lot covering 40 feddans. It has 1,200 beds and is provided with sophisticated medical equipment. Construction of the hospital cost approximately 36 million pounds. President Mubarak expressed joy at what he saw at the hospital and said that executive bodies are doing their utmost to surmount obstacles to the progress of various economic sectors in order to raise citizens' standard of living. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Apr 87] /9599

CSO: 4500/87

ECONOMIC SITUATION SEEN AS PUTTING STRAIN ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Mar 87 (Supplement--"Finance") pp 1,8

[Article by Dov Ganhovsky: "Israeli Economy Will Be Hard Put to Withstand Economic Pressures in the Wake of Pollard Affair"]

[Text] The "Pollard Affair," whose political implications have marred relations between Israel and the United States, also presents economic ramifications stemming mainly from Israel's dependence on grants and loans from the American government.

The Pollard affair has brought home, and continues to reveal, how exposed we are on Washington's Capitol Hill to every prevailing or unprevailing wind, and even people defined or who define themselves as "Israel's friends" are coming out against us with uncustomary vehemence in this case.

This is important because the main weapon through which both Houses of the U.S. Congress can express fury, anger, or displeasure against Israel is the economic weapon. More precisely, aid. And indeed, there already is some talk along this line. Syndicated columnists of major U.S. newspapers have been writing about it, senators and representatives are talking about it, and not only talking: "operative proposals" are being voiced on the matter, including a suggestion to levy a "monetary fine" on Israel in the form of aid cuts, or another suggestion to ban any aid increase for a friendly country spying against the United States.

Great Reserves

In the case of Congress, it is a matter of expressing economic displeasure. This can take all kinds of forms and shapes, all based on our great economic dependence on the United States.

If indeed the Americans decide to "punish" us along the above lines and to cut 10-15 percent of the aid (\$300-500 million) and if their decision affects the military aid--which comes to \$1.8 billion--then from an immediate viewpoint the tragedy is not that great. Or, the decision concerning the Lavi may be taken out of our hands, something which would mean the end of that project.

Other than that, it is difficult to imagine that the Americans would want to hurt their own interests, i.e., their own military industry, which in fact gets that money in exchange for supplies to Israel.

Of course, we are not talking about that part of the military aid--\$300 million--which is still granted with no strings attached. That part is treated the same as economic aid.

The economic aid totals \$1.2 billion. A 25-50 percent cut in that amount would of course make a great difference, but. The but concerns the short term, namely the fact that currently Israel has about \$4 billion in foreign currency reserves, all told. If the American civil aid is cut, the Israeli politicians will make the decision to transfer the burden to the reserves.

In other words, it is not so terrible. True, the civil aid constitutes government income, and if that is reduced, the deficit increases, and if the deficit increases, the government will have to find additional cover for it, and for that it will have to ask for funds from the Bank of Israel (which involves a change of law) or from the financial market, thereby chasing away private finance and causing interest rates to rise, a shortage of investment, and other related effects, and the postponed economic growth would be postponed even further. But that is not the worst, one can live with it.

\$24 Billion Debt

At this point, however, Israel's real trouble would begin, and from this viewpoint there is no difference whether Congress cuts the aid to Israel by \$300 million or \$10 million. The important factor is the fact of the cuts itself, not the amount. In other words, Israel's credibility in the international money markets would be hurt.

Israel, and until recently the Americans, too, tends to behave as if the U.S. constitution contained a paragraph obligating our great "friend and ally" to cover at least \$3 billion of our balance of payments deficit on a yearly basis.

No, there is no such paragraph in the U.S. Constitution. But because we have all been behaving as if there were, the attitude toward Israel has been one to match. Not like the attitude toward a small country riddled with economic and other problems, and with a \$24 billion foreign debt--which by some calculations is the largest in the world--but like the attitude toward a country for whose debts and economy the great United States is the guarantor.

In one way or another. Consequently, we were able to take out loans in the American market to almost any amount, Israeli firms were able to circulate our bonds in their financial market, and the State of Israel as a state every year "rolled over" a debt of over \$5 billion for short, medium, and long terms--and did it in the manner of a rich man, not with the humility of the town's beggar.

The coverage for all that was not provided by us, our foreign currency reserves, or the successes of our prosperous economy. The coverage came from

the American treasury and from that system of economic relations that everyone treated as an unchanging and unchangeable law of nature. And that is how it was--until the Pollard affair.

Because if indeed Congress "punishes" us by cutting aid--by how much it really does not matter, it may be symbolic or hundreds of millions--the result will be a drastic change to the worse in Israel's standing in the world. Every time we will try to mobilize funds in the U.S. market--whether to increase the debt or roll it over--we will not be doing so from the same haughty Israeli level. We will have to wait in line, after Brazil and Argentina, for example.

And if we do manage to obtain those and other funds, the interest rate we will have to pay will be adjusted by the creditors to the new risk we will represent for them. While until now they tended to think of us in terms such as: "They owe the U.S. government some \$10 billion, and it does not matter. Another \$3 billion they owe to the U.S. Jewry, and that is not terrible either, so what is their real debt?" and calculated our credit rating accordingly, the new approach will be different: "They owe \$24 billion and the devil knows where they will get the money to pay it back. Why should we go looking for trouble, on top of what we already have with other foreign countries?" And the price, should we get there in the first place, will reflect that new approach.

And so it will continue to snowball. Difficulties in raising funds lead to increases in the current debt, and so does additional interest, and together those two mean great deterioration in the balance of payments--and the rest we leave to your imagination.

The problem thus is not a few hundred millions dollars in "punitive cuts." The problem are the consequences of the punishment, which will not be commensurate with its size. On the contrary. There is reason to believe that the more symbolic the "punishment," the harder will be its impact in the various markets, because then people will assume that "we have not seen the end of it."

Once you have exercised all the imagination you can muster you will have necessarily arrived at a real nadir in the Israeli economy, including unemployment of European proportions and all the other symptoms of such a slump. And in order to overcome it we will have to go to very, very great lengths to pacify not only the gentlemen in Washington, but also and especially to convince the whole world all over again of the existence of an image that took almost 40 years to build.

It is worth mentioning that it is not only on Capitol Hill that we have problems. The Administration, too, can take measures against us through economic sanctions; we will bring only one, seemingly innocent example from the past. It was known as the "reconsideration" and it came after the Yom Kippur war. Remember? All of a sudden, all the employees dealing with economic matters concerning Israel disappeared from sight. Papers were lost, telephone calls were not returned (something unheard of in the United States, even in the worst cases), and everything was getting "stuck," until an "understanding"

was proffered about the disengagement agreements. More than one Israeli statesmen and senior functionaries sprouted white hair during those days.

An IMF delegation visited Israel recently. Until now we never took that body and its economists very seriously. In any case, each one of our "captains" took from them only what was advantageous to him. And if they said that our economic data looked doubtful to them, we did not pay much attention to that fact. So what if they said so?

But in the absence of a "father" or "godfather" what the IMF has to say becomes enormously important for a state in the situation in which we would then find ourselves. And whoever does not grasp this, does not need to go all the way to South America. Suffice it to call Cairo direct dial and to ask Egypt's president and its government why they had to go to such trouble to pacify the IMF, even though they have no quarrel with the Americans. That lesson is worth learning in any event.

[box on page 1]

U.S. Aid to Israel

Until 1971 U.S. aid to Israel was very limited, ranging between \$86 million in 1952 to \$72 million in 1970. In 1971 a change occurred, and the Americans put at Israel's disposal an increased military aid of \$545 million, aside from \$55 million in economic aid--\$500 million in all.

In 1974, after the Yom Kippur war, the United States granted Israel a one-time military aid to the tune of some \$2.5 billion, which subsequently dropped to \$1-1.8 billion a year, aside from 1979, when Israel received a one-time military grant of \$4 million, following the peace agreement with Egypt.

The U.S. economic aid also increased with the time, from \$100-150 million a year between 1972-74, to \$400 million in 1975 and \$800 million a year between 1976-83. In 1984 economic aid was once again increased, this time to \$1.2 billion a year, the amount that is still in force. In 1985 and 1986 Israel received additional emergency economic aid to the tune of \$750 million a year.

All in all, the military and economic aid together totalled some \$3.75 billion a year in 1985 and 1986. In 1987, this aid will drop to \$3 billion, unless there are changes...

12782

CSO:4423/25

OIL YIELD FROM STAR 29 ESTIMATED AT 100 BARRELS A DAY

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] The oil yield of Star 29, a Star holding, has been estimated at 100 barrels a day [BPD]. This information was communicated day before yesterday by the management of Naphta to Energy Minister Moshe Shahal. The company yesterday made a similar communication to the stock exchange, but without quoting production figures. Naphta announced that "The volume and quality of the oil reserves are not yet known. The tests will continue for another few weeks and the results will be announced to the stock exchange."

Naphta's management believes that in the present conditions, 80-100 BPD constitute industrial-scale exploitation. We must note that the production cost at Star 29, which includes the cost of drilling and of pumping installations, comes to \$500,000. At a rate of 100 BPD and a price of \$15 per barrel, the Star 29 oil well will return the investment in 1 year of production.

Conceivably, the oil reserves may run out during or after that period, as has been known to happen in other oil exploitations. Thus, for example, Star 26 began with 150 BPD but is currently producing only 20 BPD.

The partners in the Star 29 venture are Naphta, holding 80 percent of the project; Magen, 10 percent; Delek and Delek Oil Exploration, 8 percent; and Fedoil, 2 percent. Another oil exploration project is currently being carried out by a group of foreign investors in the Nitzana area (Crane 1). On that project the drilling has reached a depth of 800 meters, and the estimated drilling budget is believed to be \$4 million.

12782
CSO:4423/25

BRIEFS

GAS CLOUD CAUSES ILLNESS--A gas cloud from an unidentified source has affected several of the inhabitants of the village of Rayyif, located at the Ram Intersection (Lakhish region), and some members of the security forces. A local resident complained about a gas cloud, mist, and a sharp smell which made his daughter ill. Members of the Civil Guard came to investigate, and three of them were themselves affected by the gas (nausea and headaches) and required medical treatment. The gas was finally dispersed by rain and winds; no other injuries or complaints were reported. The investigation that was held did not reveal any leak from neighboring chemical plants, and no agricultural chemical spraying of any kind was reported in the area. The preventive measures concerning chemical leaks were reviewed on the occasion at the area factories. [Text] [Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew No 27, 25 Mar 87 p 8] 12782

POSSIBLE RAPPROCHEMENT WITH HUNGARY--Hungary may follow in the footsteps of Poland and establish a diplomatic representation in Israel. This was the impression registered yesterday at the Foreign Ministry in the wake of the meeting between the political director general, Dr. Yossi Beylin, and Hungarian envoy Yanni Rando. Rando, a former Hungarian ambassador to Cairo, told Beylin: "I was excited to come to Israel. While I was in Cairo I saw Israel from the other side of the border. Coming to this side is a special experience." Dr. Beylin said after the talks that progress has been made in various areas of the bilateral relations. "I am convinced that Hungary will not be the last East European country to follow Poland's example." [Text] [Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Mar 87 p 1] 12782

HUNGARY PLACES DIRECT ORDER--The Plusone plant of Kibbutz Ma'agan Mikha'el has recently succeeded in penetrating East European markets, and has for the first time received a direct order from Hungary. The order is an experimental order of special fittings for irrigation systems, and was placed with the plant through Plusone's agent in Vienna. The amount of the order is \$15,000 as a first stage, and if it meets the requirements of the Hungarian company, further orders can be expected. Plusone's management is not exactly certain who ordered the products, but it is assumed that it is a governmental firm running an agricultural enterprise. Plusone exports to some 50 countries in the world, including Asia, South America, and Africa. However, as has been stated, so far it has not marketed any products to East Europe. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 87 p 5] 12782

CSO:4423/25

CPI-M GENERAL SECRETARY INTERVIEWED ON ELECTIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Apr 87 p 9

[Text]

"Even in this election we have been emphasising that our opposition to the Muslim League is not an opposition to the Muslim community"—this was stated by Mr. E. M. S. Nambuthiripad, general secretary of the CPI(M) in an exclusive interview in New Delhi to THE HINDU today.

He was replying to a question on his party's long-term strategy to wean away the Muslim masses in the light of the fact that the League among the various parties of the UDF in Kerala had managed to maintain its hold over its traditional areas of support.

"Ever since the communist party was formed in Kerala, we have always been defending the Muslims as a minority community for which many of our comrades have laid down their lives. We are continuing and we will continue to do this. But it is our contention that the Muslim League leadership is betraying the interests of the Muslim community," he said.

Stand on Babri Masjid: "Now that they are not in power, larger and larger sections have been thinking. As a matter of fact, I have noted that even in the Muslim League official organ, they have appreciated our stand on Babri Masjid". Mr. Nambuthiripad said. (The party's stand has been that the Congress Government by throwing open the premises even when a case was going on had attempted to appease the Hindu communalists and aroused communal passions). "As for the RSS and the BJP—they had no sense of shame in writing on the walls that Babar is a foreigner—the founder of an empire which lasted more than two centuries," the CPI(M) general secretary said.

Not pessimistic: "For the last fifty years we have been working with nationalist Muslims. So I am not pessimistic. Of course it is a slow process". With respect to Malappuram district, he said that in spite of the League's strength his party candidates had never lost deposits in any

election. "We poll a sizeable percentage of votes. If the alliance between the Congress and the League is broken, many of the League candidates will lose. Malappuram now is not the old Malappuram".

Asked if this was due to the changes with respect to education etc., which had taken place in this Muslim majority district, he said that it was due to political changes. "And I expect this electoral defeat to hasten that process".

Regrouping of communal forces: Asked what challenges the LDF Government was likely to face with the regrouping of communal forces, he said that the regrouping of these forces was not so easy. It was in the very character of caste and communal combinations that they fall apart and cited the reservation question. Such an observation pertained to a case when there was a grouping together of organisations standing for different communities. What would be the case if, for instance, one community began a Nilakkal type of agitation or against the educational policy of the LDF government? He replied that these forces were also different from what they had been earlier and referred to the changes taking place in the Catholic Church.

Mr. Nambuthiripad said his appeal to the electorate was mainly two: that the UDF be reduced to a minority and the BJP-Hindu Munnani combine did not win a single seat. He had added another appeal that the electorate should ensure that not a single BJP candidate retained his deposit. Only the second was not achieved though out of the 122 constituencies where the BJP-Hindu Munnani had contested, it had managed to retain deposit only in six.

Reaction to minority communalism?: Asked whether in the growth or existence of the BJP, etc., the majority communalism could be explained solely as a reaction to minority communalism or to the growth of the left forces, he said majority communalism was inherent in a situation where the Hindus were in a majority. 'The appeal of the majority is there very much. They

have the advantage that they can project the communal interest as the national interest'.

In a reference to the clashes between the RSS and the CITU in Kerala (He was quick to point out that these were not clashes, but attacks by the RSS on CPI(M) workers), he said that the target of the RSS was mainly the Muslims. "But they knew very well that without finishing us, they cannot launch attacks on the Muslims.

'Indianisation' call denied: In a statement issued today, Mr. Nambuthiripad categorically denied that he had ever given a call for 'Indianisation'. When he had questioned the person who had originally made this allegation he had been told that this inference had been drawn from an article written by him in *Deshabhimani* entitled, 'Indian Patriotism and Proletarian Internationalism'. It would have been clear if this article had been read in its whole context and in the context of his campaign speeches that Indian patriotism as spelled out by him was the very opposite of the RSS concept of Hindu Rashtra which dismissed the pre-Aryan civilisations of India as non-existent and the post-Vedic civilisation as alien.

Indian patriotism, according to the latter, was nothing but Hindu chauvinism. He had on the other hand been sharply opposing the RSS concept and pointing out that pride in the composite Indian cultural traditions, that is, what was positive in Vedic, Islamic and Christian civilisations, was the essence of Indian patriotism.

'Hypocrisy' criticised: Mr. Nambuthiripad criticised the former Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. K. Karunakaran and Mr. A. K. Antony, for their hypocrisy in first stating that they would acknowledge the verdict of the people and would not resort to a 'liberation struggle' as was launched against the first communist government in Kerala and alleging at the very first session of the Assembly that law and order had broken down in the State and warning that they would be forced to launch a 'liberation struggle'.

/13104
CSO: 4600/1584

FOREIGN VESSELS SIPHON OFF INDIA'S OCEAN DATA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Mar 87 p 1

[Article by Vineet Dikshit]

[Text] Vital national maritime and oceanographic secrets have been siphoned out of the country since 1982, when two British and Norwegian survey vessels started extensive mapping of the Indian waters.

Hired by the Department of Ocean Development (DOD) to explore the possibilities of polymetallic nodule sites, the crew of survey ships M V Farnella, M V Skandi Surveyor are understood to have divulged vital information regarding 'three-dimensional mapping' of a considerable portion of the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, to a neighbouring country.

Defence experts believe that the contours of the entire hydrosphere around the Indian peninsular waters and sensitive oceanographic data vital for submarine warfare are now an open secret.

The apprehension that these very ships were used to collect the secret data stems from the fact that services of scores of similar Indian survey vessels were not taken. Shipping sources say that any Indian ship could have done the job with utmost secrecy.

Concerned personnel confirm that not only the country's navigational secrets have been leaked out but vital maritime commercial information about the sites of polymetallic nodules too has been revealed.

Confidentiality

This is in direct contrast to the DOD's opinion expressed in international for a regarding the "confidentiality of co-ordinates" of the future mining sites in high seas. The two survey ships chartered by the DOD since 1983, have mapped over three million

square km of the Indian waters. This included, apart from spotting the nodule stations and echosounding, measuring of the temperature gradient, underwater streams and salt density measurements at various locations in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Details of their survey have been brought out by DOD's annual reports which also included many cruise tracks undertaken by these 'chartered ships'.

The experts say that such data of the hydrosphere adjoining the country's coastline is a closely guarded secret as knowledge of the underwater parameters dictates the outcome of a submarine warfare.

The temperature layers or the thermals and the streams of higher dense salt packs form a hiding place for submarines. One of the experts, requesting anonymity, points out that, with the knowledge of these thermals which have a property to bounce or deviate the 'sonar waves' the probability of enemy escaping right under your nose increases manyfold. They can quite stealthily move through 'safe underwater corridors'.

The deviation of the sonar thus formed confounds the submarine hunters.

The gruesome memory of the sinking of I NS Khukri by a Pakistani submarine during the 1971 war is still fresh among the mariners. The Pak sub is believed to have hidden itself beneath a thermal layer and successfully evaded sonar detection.

Vessels

In 1982, DOD chartered M V Skandi Surveyor from P/R Oakland &

Co., Torangsvaag, Norway, whereas M V Fernella was hired from M/s J Marr & Sons Ltd., Hull, England. M V Fernella is of World War II vintage and was earlier used as a tramp and fishing trawler.

The only Indian survey vessel deployed for polymetallic nodules exploration is R V Gaveshani. Scientists working on-board this ship say that in 1983 when Gaveshani was docked at Port Louis in Mauritius, a Pakistan national was nabbed on the ship. It is surprising that the matter was never reported to the Mauritian police nor to the Indian authorities later. The Pakistan national might have approached clandestinely the Indian vessel, possibly to obtain oceanographic data.

The experts also point out to another dubious cruise track undertaken by M V Skandi Surveyor in 1982 when after surveying in mid-Indian Ocean it entered the waters of Diego Garcia, the United States outpost near India. According to the DOD's annual report,

1982-83 (page no. 43) a graphic illustration of Gaveshani and Skandi Surveyor near Diego Garcia clearly explains the game. After R V Gaveshani gathered the data for polymetallic nodules in mid-Ocean, its further course was undertaken by Skandi Surveyor till Diego Garcia. The mystery behind the sailing of the DOD's hired Norwegian ship in Diego Garcian waters has not yet been solved.

The siphoning away of the ocean secrets has surfaced at a time when the Indian Government is conducting a highly ambitious experiment in the Bay of Bengal in hydrographic acoustics.

The repercussions of this leak are believed to be disastrous. Last year a similar sensitive information regarding the magnetic bearing along the Himalayas is reported to have landed into foreign hands. The magnetic bearing information is a much sought after secret for its application in routing and targeting ballistic missiles.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1580

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON VISIT TO POLAND

AU121812 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 6 Apr 87 p 2

[Interview with Narayan Dutt Tiwari, foreign minister of the Republic of India, by Danuta Walewska: "We Think of the World as One Family"--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Walewska] Invariably, during meetings between Indian and Polish politicians, mention is made of the convergence of our goals in international activity and of our positions being identical or very close to one another. In what way are they similar?

[Tiwari] In the area of foreign policy our states are linked to one another by common goals--we are searching for ways of bringing about disarmament, both nuclear and conventional, so as to insure that the world has lasting peace. Poland fully supports the goals of the Nonaligned Movement. You supported the Delhi Declaration signed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Mikhail Gorbachev. The viewpoints of Poland and India are identical with regard to the question of establishing a new economic order and we are fighting racism and neocolonialism. Our countries' position on apartheid is well known. General Jaruzelski and I discussed how one can use peaceful means to combat this disgraceful doctrine.

[Walewska] What other issues were raised during your talks with representatives of the Polish authorities? Which of them would you consider to be the most important for the further development of Polish-Indian relations?

[Tiwari] Our talks covered a wide range of subjects. During the meeting with Gen Wojciech Jaruzelski, we returned to the subjects that had been discussed during his meeting with Rajiv Gandhi and Giani Zail Singh. Thus, what we discussed on the one hand was Polish-Indian relations. As you know, there are close ties between Poland and India; Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been invited to pay an official visit; the next session of the Joint Mixed Commission for Economic Affairs will shortly take place; and we also discussed peace and disarmament. We also discussed other issues: I described the situation in southern Asia and India's relations with its neighbors. Gen Jaruzelski talked about the current situation in Europe. Thus, the talks covered a wide range of subjects and were extremely useful for the future of our relations.

[Walewska] In your speech, you said: "We should continue to look for ways and means of further development and extending cooperation." In your opinion, where do such opportunities lie, and what should we do to make use of them?

[Tiwari] These opportunities lie in economic cooperation. The current value of Polish-Indian trade amounts to 2 billion rupees and we would like to increase this to 5 billion rupees. I think that this is a very realistic amount, which suits both sides' capabilities and desires. We should expand joint undertakings, joint enterprises, and production cooperation, and we should increase scientific and technical exchange. I hope these subjects will be addressed in a creative way at the upcoming June session of the Polish-Indian Mixed Commission.

I am talking about economic matters because, as I have already said, in foreign policy we have common viewpoints and we think of the world as one family.

/12858
CSO: 4600/1592

HUMAN RESOURCES MINISTRY ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Mar 87 p 5

[Text]

The Government will soon launch a technology mission for eradication of illiteracy "with the support of all available information technologies and improved pedagogical inputs", reports UNI.

The mission will form part of the phased time-bound programme proposed under the new education policy to cover approximately 40 million illiterates by 1990, says the annual report of the Human Resources Development Ministry.

According to the latest figures (1981 census) there are 437 million illiterates in the country with Uttar Pradesh accounting for more than 80 million followed by Bihar with 50 million.

Although the percentage of literacy improved from 16.57 per cent to 36.27 between 1951 and 1981, in absolute numbers, however, illiterate persons increased during this period from 300 million to 437 million. Women comprise 57 per cent of the total illiterate population.

Spread of literacy has thus been an important programme since independence. There are at least seven major schemes for eradication of illiteracy.

This includes the rural functional literacy projects and the adult education programme which envisages wiping out illiteracy among 100 million adults in the age-group 15-35.

The annual report also speaks of a nation-wide programme of

continuing education through "Jana Sikshan Nilayam" in order to make a success of retention of children enrolled in schools and to establish a linkage between functional performance.

This programme has been necessitated by the "alarming level" of drop-out of children, predominantly in the rural areas.

The Ministry has accorded the highest priority to universalisation of elementary education through which it hopes to achieve thorough well-planned strategies based on micro-planning and applied at the grass root level.

It is visualised that all children in the age-group of six to 11 will have five years of schooling or its equivalent through non-formal stream by 1990. Likewise by 1995 all children up to the age of 14 years will be provided free and compulsory education, the report says.

Comprehensive measures such as conversion of single-teacher schools into two-teacher schools, improvement of physical facilities in primary and middle classes, appointment of women teachers, special attention to girls and children of weaker sections, provision of incentives like free supply of text books and stationery, free uniforms for girls, attendance scholarships and mid-day meals are being undertaken to seek more enrolment and reduce the rate of school drop-outs, the report says.

The annual plan of the Ministry's Department of Education for 1987-88 has been prepared with an outlay of Rs 825 crores as against Rs 352 crores for 1986-87. Several new programmes have been included to be taken up this year accordingly.

Under the non-formal education programme it is proposed to enrol 3.9 million children during the current financial year through the 155455 non-formal education centres. The main thrust for enrolment would be in the nine educationally backward states. A total grant of Rs 144 lakhs has been sanctioned for establishment of non-formal centres exclusively for girls.

The nine states are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

A total grant of Rs 200 lakhs has also been sanctioned to the nine states for appointment of 8000 women teachers.

The report says that the major strategies to launch a systematic programme of adult education include reorganisation of existing programmes, linkages with national goals and developmental programmes, application of science and technology, launching of the mass functional literacy programme and multidimensional programme of continuing education.

DEPARTMENT OF COAL ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 23 Mar 87 p 4

[Text] **New Delhi, March 22 (PTI):** The year 1986-87 is expected to end with a record coal production of a little over 165 million tonnes against 154.24 million tonnes achieved in 1985-86, recording a seven per cent growth rate, according to the 1986-87 annual report of the department of coal.

Of this, Coal India will contribute 143.50 million tonnes, the Singareni Collieries about 16.76 million tonnes and the captive mines of Tisco, IISCO and DVC 4.74 million tonnes.

Between April 1986 and February 1987, the recorded coal production was 146.56 million tonnes, as compared to 135.54 million tonnes in the corresponding period in 1985-86.

Of this, 127.55 million tonnes of coal was produced by the CIL coal companies, 14.93 million tonnes by Singareni and 4.08 million tonnes from the captive mines.

Approximately 142.56 million tonnes of coal was despatched during the period April 1986 to

February 1987, as against 136.68 million tonnes in the same period in 1985-86, representing a growth rate of 4.3 per cent.

Increased supplies enabled the department of coal to meet the requirement of core sectors like the Railways, steel, power, cement and fertiliser almost in full.

The pithead stocks stood at 26.60 million tonnes as on March 1, 1987, as against 24.77 million tonnes on March 1, 1986.

The Plan outlay for the coal sector for the year 1987-88 has been fixed at Rs 1,443.89 crores including Rs 293.89 crores for the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC).

The NLC has been maintaining its excellent production performance in the recent years. The lignite production in 1986-87 is expected to touch 78.60 lakh tonnes and power generation 4,700 million units in 1986-87 as against 72.7 lakh tonnes and 3,938 million units in 1985-86.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1591

BRIEFS

MORE KERALA MINISTERS--The five-member Left Democratic Front ministry in Kerala, headed by Mr. E.K. Nayanar, will be expanded with the induction of 14 new ministers, the LDF convener, Mr T.K. Ramakrishnan, announced here today. Eight of them including the chief minister will be from the CPI (M), the leading LDF partner. Representation for the other constituents will be as under: CPI (four), Janata, Congress (S) and RSP (two each) and Lok Dal (one). Mrs K.R. Gowri, who was minister in all the three Left-led ministries of 1957, 1967 and 1980, will be the lone woman. The other ministers are: Mr T.K. Ramakrishnan, Mr V. Viswanatha Menon, Mr V.J. Thankappan, Mr T.K. Hamsa, Mr T. Sivadasa Menon and Mr Lonappen Nambadan (all CPI-M), Mr V.V. Raghavan, Mr E. Chandrasekharan Nair and Mr P.K. Raghavan (CPI), Mr K. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Congress-S), Mr M.P. Veerendra Kumar (Janata), Mr K. Pankajakshan (RSP) and Mr A. Neela Lohita Das Nadar (Lok Dal). [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Apr 87 p 4] /13104

ARUNACHAL PRADESH GOVERNOR--Mr R.D. Pradhan was sworn in as the governor of Arunachal Pradesh at a function at Raj Bhavan here today. The oath of office was administered by the acting chief justice of Guwahati high court, Mr K.N. Saikia. The chief minister, Mr Geong Apang, his Cabinet colleagues, legislators and senior police and civil officials were present at the function. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 20 Mar 87 p 4] /13104

ENVOY TO LEBANON--The new Indian Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr Mathu Venkataraman, arrived here on Sunday. India had no ambassador here since November 1984. The Indian embassy had, however, worked here all along. It is manned by 11 India-based personnel and three locals. Mr Venkataraman is among the first ambassadors to come to West Beirut after the Syrians restored order in this most populous part of the Lebanese capital. The other ambassadors that have arrived here since are those of Iran and France. Mr Venkataraman had to come by road from Damascus because Beirut International Airport still remains closed after the militia battles that raged in West Beirut in the third week of February. Over a year ago two of its men, a consular assistant, Mr Kutty, and the servant of the First Secretary, Ramu, were kidnapped. Their release was however, obtained within 24 hours. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Apr 87 p 7] /13104

AURANGABAD ENGLISH DAILY--"Lokmat", the first English daily from here, was launched yesterday by the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Shankarrao Chavan.

The function was presided over by the former Union minister, Mr. V. N. Gadgil, and addressed by Mr. Kuldip Nayar and Mr. Venkat Narayan. Mr. Chavan appealed to the press to uphold a value-oriented society and the independence of views.

The chief minister cautioned against growing fundamentalism. He commended Mr. Jawaharlal Darda who owns the the new daily, for his service to journalism. Mr. P.V. Gadgil, a veteran journalist, was felicitated. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Apr 87 p 7] /13104

LOK DAL GENERAL SECRETARY--Dr. Subramaniam Swamy has been appointed general secretary of the Lok Dal by the party vice-president, Mr. Ajit Singh. Dr. Swamy said his appointment signalled the takeover of the organisation by a new generation of young politicians committed to implementing the policies of Gandhi and Chaudhary Charan Singh. Dr. Swamy has been actively supporting Mr. Ajit Singh against the Bahuguna faction in the party. Mr. Ajit Singh also appointed Mrs. Chandrawati, former leader of opposition in the Haryana assembly, as president of the state unit of the Lok Dal. The Haryana Lok Dal executive committee will be announced soon. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Mar 87 p 9] /13104

DANISH AID GRANT--Denmark will give a grant of Rs 36 crores to India during 1987, reports UNI. An agreement to this effect was signed here today by Mr Bjarne H. Sorensen, head of Asia Division, Danish International Development Agency, and Mr Kamlesh Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of their respective Governments. This amount will be utilized for projects on health and family welfare, rural water supply and agriculture spread over Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala, an official release said here today. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Mar 87 p 16] /13104

ENVOYS TO PRC, PORTUGAL--The Government has finalised the appointment of Mr. C.V. Ranganathan, now Minister in the Indian Embassy in Moscow, as Ambassador in Beijing. An expert in Chinese affairs who spent his formative years in the Indian Foreign Service learning Chinese language, Mr. Ranganathan was Joint Secretary in charge of China in the Ministry of External Affairs before he was assigned elsewhere. He has been chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Mr. K. P. S. Menon as Foreign Secretary following Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran's resignation. Another interesting diplomatic appointment that has been approved is of the well-known Kerala politician, Mr. Henry Austin, who is being sent as Ambassador to Lisbon. A prominent figure in Kerala's public life, he was a member of the State Assembly and later of Lok Sabha, before he became a Minister of State for a brief period at the Centre. He has been a member of the AICC(I) and also a General Secretary of the KPCC(I). [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 87 p 1] [Article by G. K. Reddy] /13104

CSO: 4600/1593

MOHTASHAMI SAYS IRAN INDEPENDENT OF U.S., USSR

LD252131 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, 25 April, IRNA--The Islamic Revolution of Iran has proven that nations of the world can be independent of the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and that Islam is a power for the oppressed and Muslim nations, said Minister of Interior, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, here Saturday.

Speaking to a group of relatives of Lebanese martyrs, the minister said that the global arrogance of the East and West has been dealt a "very crushing blow by Islam and the Islamic Revolution," since its victory in 1979.

On the Iraqi imposed war, Mohtashami said that the East and West who have differences of opinion in many areas, are in full agreement with each other in opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran. They (East and West) have put aside their differences concerning the region and the Iraqi-imposed war, and the two superpowers are openly helping Saddam Hussayn in the war, he added.

In Lebanon, he added, the East and West have mobilised rightists and leftists and have put aside their disputes, in order to inflict a blow on the uprising Lebanese Muslims, especially the Shi'ites.

The minister said that the superpowers' enmity results from their fear of Islam, adding that they view the movement of the Lebanon muslims as part of the global Islamic revolution.

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CSO: 4600/205

RAFSANJANI SAYS SUPERPOWERS 'TRUE ENEMIES' OF IRAN

LD242235 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, 24 April, IRNA--Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Thursday that no foreign government is waging war against Iran without taking orders from and relying on the Soviets and Americans in its doing so. He said the ruling regime in Baghdad is really Iran's ghost enemy, the true enemies of the Islamic Republic being the superpowers.

Rafsanjani who was speaking to Imam Khomeyni's personal representatives at the armed forces in charge of political and ideological indoctrination, Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i, said every time Iran's Muslim combatants make it hard for the Iraqi regime, Baghdad's behind-the-scene supporters as though step in a desperate move to do something for keeping it in power.

He said the Soviets as well as the French have rushed all manner of sophisticated weapons to the Iraqi Government in order to beef up its military capacity against Iran.

Rafsanjani said the Iraq-Iran conflict is in effect a war by the United States, the Soviets and France against the Islamic Republic on the other. [sentence as received]

The Majlis speaker said such laic drives as nationalism, racism, and the likes of them can hardly inspire one with a true commitment to fight against an enemy, adding that those who fall back on such motives usually show tail when really confronted with danger at close quarters.

He lauded the efforts of Imam Khomeyni's representative at the armed forces for the spiritual enlightening of the rank and file members of the armed forces, and said with pleasure that Iran's armed forces are now an entity pushing forward on the path of the holy Koran rather than committing itself to giving physical protection to one and only one supreme ruler such as it did at the time of the shah.

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CSO: 4600/205

IRANIANS DEFECT DURING LONDON ARMS TALKS

LD290927 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 29 Mar 87 p 3--For Official Use Only

[Foreign Staff Report: "30 Iranians 'Defect in Arms Talks"'; all personal names as received]

[Text] Iranian emigres in London claim that 30 members of a government delegation from Tehran have defected while holding secret talks on arms purchases in London.

Some have been given asylum in various Western countries and others are in hiding.

A spokesman for the National Resistance Movement of Iran told THE SUNDAY TIMES yesterday that the defectors included the delegation leader, Colonel Abbas Abedini, the deputy commander of the Iranian Air Force, who is an expert on British and American arms.

Abedini is reported to have disappeared from his London address last week and to have flown to an unnamed Western country to join his wife and children, who left Iran before him.

The NRMI spokesman named several other officers who had been given asylum, including the deputy leader of the delegation, Colonel Ismail Hussein Talayeh, and Iran's military attache in India, Colonel Ali Akbar Eskandari.

The identity of the countries given asylum to the defectors are being kept secret because of the murder in Frankfurt last month of Captain Ali Akbar Muhammadi, who was the personal pilot to an Iranian Government leader. Muhammadi defected to West Germany after flying his private jet to Iraq.

The rebels say that the secret arms negotiations were held in the office of the National Iranian Oil Company in Victoria Street, central London. The company's offices were named in the Tower Commission report as an important centre for the controversial arms deals with Iran.

It names three NIOC employees allegedly involved in the deals, saying these men were constantly in touch with Iranian army officers who travel regularly to London to inspect weapons bought on the black market and from international dealers.

No comment was available from the Iranian Embassy.

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CSO: 4600/205

MUSAVI REITERATES IRAN TO FOIL ANY GULF 'PLOTS'

LD231930 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, 23 April, IRNA--Recent proposals concerning the Persian Gulf and shipping in this strategic waterway, reflect the global arrogance's fears for the Iraqi regime's imminent downfall, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi told a group of theologians here Thursday.

Musavi told the meeting that their fears further escalated after the victorious 'Karbala'-5 operations launched by Iran combatants last January. Global arrogance in collaboration with certain regional reactionaries has since hatched new plots against the Islamic Republic, he added.

Iran will strongly counter any futile move in the region without delay, Musavi said, noting that Iranian people have repeatedly proved that they stand by the Islamic principles with all their strength.

Furthermore in the meeting, the prime minister termed the last Iranian year (ended 20 March) as a crucial test for his government, but he added that despite problems the government successfully thwarted all foreign plots and pressures by using past experiences.

The government victoriously conducted the Iraqi-imposed war last year and also achieved significant successes in political, social, economic and particularly the scientific research fields, Musavi said.

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CSO: 4600/205

IRAQI STUDENTS PROTEST 2 DEATHS IN KARACHI

NC231244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that on the 40th day following the martyrdom of two Iraqi Muslim students in Karachi by the Iraqi regime's security elements, a statement was issued by the Iraqi Muslim Students' Association in India addressed to the chairman of the UN Human Rights Organization in Pakistan.

The statement says: Saddam's beastly regime has apparently been granted the freedom to play with the destinies of our Muslim Iraqi brothers, not only in Iraq but elsewhere, too. The world's mass media stand silent in the face of the oppression within Iraq, and despite all of the inhuman acts committed by the Iraqi regime no words of condemnation are heard from any source but the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Elsewhere, the message says: Has your excellency ever thought of issuing a decision against the various crimes against human rights being perpetrated by Saddam against the oppressed Iraqi nation? Your excellency has received numerous letters and requests from the Iraqi people and from the world's peace-loving organizations, but you have obviously not attached any importance to them.

The statement concludes: We, Muslim Iraqi students, demand that the crimes perpetrated by Saddam's regime be revealed to the world, and we call on international organizations to adopt effective decisions against Saddam's savage crimes and to condemn him.

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CSO: 4600/205

MUSAVI ON AFGHAN NATION'S RESISTANCE

LD261822 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, 26 April, IRNA--Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today lauded 27 April as the day of "Afghan nation's resistance," and said that the long struggle of the Muslim people of this country had discredited the superpowers for their intervention in Third World countries and is daily awakening the nations.

Speaking at the end of a cabinet session here Musavi said that the Afghan Muslim nation, who themselves are awake, have by their very struggle against the occupation forces, are contributing to the awareness of other Third World countries. He said the Afghan Muslims would undoubtedly continue their struggle until the complete withdrawal of the occupiers from this Muslim country.

"The Islamic identity of the Iranian revolution naturally compells it to stand to the end with the Afghan nation," Musavi said.

Twenty-seven April marks the anniversary of the military coup in Afghanistan, and is 2 days after the anniversary of the U.S. attack on Tabass, northwestern Iran (25 April, 1980), described by the prime minister as "another major blunder by the superpowers against countries which want to live independently."

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OUTGOING ENVOY MEETS WITH JAPANESE PREMIER

LD272143 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, 27 April, IRNA--Japanese Prime Minister Yashuhiro Nakasone said today that his country in no way wants to see the Persian Gulf turned into an arena for superpowers rivalry.

According to officials of the Islamic Republic Embassy here, Nakasone made the remark in a meeting with the outgoing Iranian ambassador to Tokyo, 'Abdol Rahim Govahi, here.

During the meeting Govahi was said to have expressed the Islamic Republic's interest in further expansion of Tehran-Tokyo political and economic relations.

Govahi also briefed the Japanese prime minister on recent developments in the Persian Gulf as well as on the invitation of certain regional countries to foreign powers to interfere in the region. In reply Nakasone was also quoted as calling for further expansion of Irano-Japan ties.

Meanwhile, Japanese news agency KYODO reported here on the same day that Nakasone had delivered to Govahi a private letter for Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

KYODO quoted Japanese officials as saying that Nakasone has expressed hope in the letter, that the Iraq-Iran war would end soon and that his country would do all within her power to realize this.

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IRGC OFFICIAL PRAISES LEBANESE HEZBOLLAH FORCES

LD271043 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Qom, Central Prov, 27 April, IRNA--Lebanese Hezbollah are the embodiment of Muslim forces which, inspired by the Islamic revolution of Iran and its leadership, are fighting against the Zionists and have put an end to their myth of invulnerability, said a Hezbollah spokesman here Sunday.

Speaking at a special ceremony to mark martyrdom of Hezbollah forces in Lebanon, the spokesman said that the Lebanese Hezbollah had proved that faith of Muslims in Islam could be the best weapon for their liberation.

Meanwhile, Basij head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, noted that Hezbollah of Lebanon are the vanguard for the liberation of Qods.

He called on all Muslim forces to deal more fatal blows on the Zionists by better understanding the special situation in Lebanon and becoming further vigilant about enemy plots.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani remarking that certain Palestinian opportunists were trying to foment civil war and bloodshed in Lebanon, stressed that combatant forces should foil these plots.

The Islamic movement in Lebanon had scared Western and Eastern imperialism, he added.

In another development, Muslim combatants and families of martyrs of Lebanon issued a resolution at the conclusion of their gathering in Tehran Sunday to study status of combatant forces fighting the Zionist regime.

The resolution, reiterating the necessity of fighting against the Zionists, said that Palestine is an Islamic land and, therefore, to purge it of Zionist usurpers is an Islamic duty.

The resolution condemned brutal acts of the Zionists and their agents against Muslims in southern Lebanon as well as the attempt of international arrogance to officially aware Palestine to the Zionists through a so-called international conference.

It warned heads of reactionary countries, especially Kuwait, that they could not surrender Islamic lands to the U.S. or the USSR under deceitful slogans.

LARIJANI ADDRESSES GROUP-77, MEETS CUBAN MINISTER

NC241042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] During his speech to the Group-77 assembly, Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs, proposed that a joint fund be established to provide assistance for the economic growth of group members and thereby end the big powers' economic domination of developing countries.

Mr Larijani, who is in Cuba at the head of a delegation to attend the Group-77 sessions, condemned the U.S. administration's policy of using economic assistance to poor countries to impose political objectives. He noted that the Third World's economic problems and debts stem from the policies pursued by monetary and industrial centers in the colonialist countries, especially the United States. In conclusion, Mr Larijani asserted that Third World unity is one of the primary ways to overcome economic difficulties.

Mr Larijani met with the Cuban foreign minister on Wednesday. During this meeting, the Cuban minister referred to the international repercussions of Iraq's use of chemical weapons. He stated: In our opinion, the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances should be condemned and the stockpiling of chemical weapons in the world should be stopped.

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CSO: 4600/205

COMMENTARY VIEWS AFGHAN REVOLUTION IN RETROSPECT

NC270901 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Central Research Unit commentary entitled: "Nine Years of Valiant Struggle"]

[Excerpts] Today's date, 27 April, has an unpleasant and bitter connotation for the tyrannized Muslim people of Afghanistan, marking an event whose repercussions have cast a shadow on the political, social, and economic life of the Islamic country of Afghanistan. It was on this day that the Marxist coup d'etat of 7 Sawr [27 April] marked in the political history of this country with furor and indignation, was engineered by air force officers trained in the Soviet Union under the leadership of Colonel 'Abdol Qadir. With the release from prison of Nur Mohammad Taraki and his assumption of power, the Marxist puppet regime began its rule.

With these changes and developments in Afghanistan's political arena, the ground was prepared for the military intervention and presence of more than 120,000 soldiers of the Red Army on 27 December 1979. According to press reports, the Marxist regime of Afghanistan, on the eve of the ninth anniversary of the Marxist coup of 27 April, has stationed 8,000 Soviet troops and instituted stringent security arrangements in Kabul.

A retrospective survey of the 9 years of imposed Marxist rule in the Islamic country of Afghanistan reveals a history punctuated by sorrow and hardship, as well as sacrifice, perseverance, and fortitude which continue today. The struggle that began 9 years ago by the Muslim Afghan mujahidin in the name of Islamic ideology and as a result of Islamic teachings to fight for freedom, has entered a phase in which these fighters control not only the major areas of their country's territory, but have also taken their struggle inside Soviet territory, taking advantage of the problems prevailing in the southern Soviet republics. This situation, coupled with the everincreasing problems of the Red Army on Afghan soil and the defection of some Russians to the ranks of the revolutionaries, have resulted in certain concessions by Moscow on the Afghanistan issue.

The Marxist coupist regime's accession to power, which was a harbinger of foreign military domination in oppressed Afghanistan, has been marked by extensive cruelty and hardship inflicted on the Muslim people. But this episode of occupation differs from other periods of onslaught by aggressors and colonialists,

because this time the Muslim people of Afghanistan have resisted the Marxist occupationist regime with sacrifice and heroic valor, resulting in more than 1 million martyrs and more than 5.52 million homeless Muslim Afghans in Iran and Pakistan. The homelessness of the tyrannized and oppressed Afghan people is one result of Marxist rule on an Islamic country like Afghanistan--an occupation offering slogans of support for the oppressed and toilers, but leading the deprived and oppressed to slaughter.

During this period of the Kabul puppet regime's domination, the Muslim people of Afghanistan have witnessed the pillage of their national wealth and economic resources. In addition, the Marxist regime, in order to further facilitate its dominance, had tried to distort the cultural heritage of the Muslims by dispatching Afghan children to the Soviet Union to be indoctrinated in Marxist principles and teachings.

Despite all these measures to facilitate the assimilation of communist beliefs, most knowledgeable observers believe that in the 9 years since the bloody coup of the Communist Khalq and Parcham factions in Afghanistan, this regime has failed to attain its stated objectives. The multifaceted opposition of the Afghan revolutionaries, changes in the leadership cadre, increasing flights of Muslims from the Kabul Armed Forces, the defection of Soviet soldiers to the mujahidin ranks, continuing mutiny among regime and Soviet forces, lack of general control over sensitive zones of Afghan territory, and severe economic problems are eloquent proof of the coupist regime's failure to attain its objectives.

A glance at present conditions in the Islamic Muslim country of Afghanistan and efforts to resolve the 9-year war highlights the politico-military superiority of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries' stance. Following the 28 July utterances of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok, ostensible flexibility regarding resolution of the Afghan issue emerged. The departure of six contingents of the Red Army from Afghanistan, the resumption of the ninth round of proximity talks in Geneva, whispers of possible establishment of a national government, and the declaration of a unilateral cease-fire could be construed as more evidence of this. However, none of the above factors can cut the gordian knot of the Afghan issue. According to military observers, the six departing Soviet contingents were mainly from defense units which, in light of the Afghan mujahidin's downing of aircraft and helicopter gunships, were not very effective. On the other hand, the idea of setting up an interim government in Afghanistan is being bandied about more frequently in Afghanistan. According to political circles, the Kremlin wants to retain its military presence in the country while bringing former King Zahir Shah back as a symbol of national unity, luring opposition groups to join the national unity government.

This is being proposed while the Muslim Afghan resistance is considering the establishment of all kinds of alternate governments dependent on the prior withdrawal of Soviet forces from their country. Talks had been convened between Pakistan and the puppet Kabul regime, but due to a lack of consensus on a phased timetable for the departure of Soviet soldiers they are now in abeyance. These talks took place after eight previous rounds of talks had been stymied due to the absence of the true representatives of the Muslim Afghan nation. Nor did

they have any say in the matter this time. What transpires, therefore, is that despite the idea of peaceful coexistence propounded by the communists in the international sphere, for 8 years the Islamic country of Afghanistan has been enduring their military domination and, despite the resistance of the combatant Muslim nation of Afghanistan, this domination continues.

The Afghan Muslim mujahidin have, in consecutive statements, stressed the continuation of their Islamic, ideological struggle until the last Soviet soldier has gone. They consider the restitution of their long-lost political rights and self-determination for the establishment of a nonaligned Afghanistan necessary for cohesive unity and preservation of their Islamic goals.

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'TIT-FOR-TAT' POLICY AGAINST IRAQ ADVOCATED

NC270744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Developments on the Fronts" feature]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of Ordibehesht in 1363 [21 March-21 April 1984] the Ba'thist regime's deputy foreign minister gave an interview to VOA, admitting his regime's use of chemical weapons, saying: We will avail ourselves of all resources of war. In World War II the United States used nuclear weapons to terminate the war, and we will also use all methods available, he said.

In the course of the 7 years since the commencement of the imposed war, various incidents have proven that the Iraqi regime finds aggression and violation of laws insignificant, even acceptable. It is interesting that this regime sees no obstacle to continuing its policy, even flaunting its bestial crimes! Hence, the question arises about the best way to deal with such criminals. What attitude should one adopt against criminals who express pride in their inhuman acts and even officially and overtly proclaim these atrocities? What would be the most appropriate response? Can preaching and counselling serve any purpose?

Those who have observed the developments of the war are well aware that in the 5 years the enemy has been using biological weapons, which it continues to do at the fronts, the Islamic Republic of Iran has exercised laudable restraint and has consistently asked international organizations to discharge their responsibilities in ending these atrocities. Regrettably, the people of the world have witnessed complete inertia on the part of these organizations. If you dear listeners recall, we said yesterday that the inability of international organizations to fulfill their responsibilities toward the crimes of the Ba'thist regime proves their impotence in confronting such inhuman crimes. They do not even verbally condemn the violation of accepted norms.

So what stance should the Islamic Republic of Iran take with regard to the escalation of the enemy's mischiefmaking? Should it preach to the perpetrators about their misdemeanors? Is it not time for Iran to exercise its legal right to chastise the enemy through the tit-for-tat principle? Without further explanation, we will listen to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, SDC, answer this question.

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] As for chemical weaponry, we have declared that we will not use this, and we have taken this issue to the United Nations as well. If they do not take effective steps, and if Iraq again resorts to such mischief, apparently we will be compelled to use this warfare. [end recording]

If the international community does not fulfill its obligations, preventing Iraq from committing its chemical crimes, the Islamic Republic of Iran's answer will be drastic and decisive retaliation on an extensive and catastrophic scale. Needless to say, the best way to punish the criminals for various acts of mischief is, in the long run, the consolidation and continuation of our lawful and rightful struggle on the fronts.

Hence, in this regard, everyone affected by the crimes and those who demand justice and retribution must, more than ever, proceed to the fronts to create the conditions for launching consecutive operations for the complete chastisement of the criminal Ba'thist aggressors.

All people of the world, whether friends or foes of the revolution, are convinced today that the aggressor Ba'thist regime is enduring one of its most turbulent phases. We need only consider the stepped-up efforts of various governments of the world to make Iran compromise itself, review various steps taken by East and West in vying for a greater presence in the Persian Gulf to prop up the decrepit Ba'thist regime, and note the Saddam regime's unprecedented use of chemical weapons on the fronts to comprehend how far the crushing blows of the defenders of the revolution have pushed the enemy, to the brink of decline and annihilation. Continuing these blows and shattering the last bastion of the aggressors' resistance can best be achieved through the speedy and preferred course of greater and more extensive volunteer forces on the fronts!

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ENVOY TO UK ON GULF SHIPPING, SOVIET 'ATTITUDE'

LD251524 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] London, 25 April, IRNA--The hoisting of flags of foreign powers on Kuwaiti ships will not change the Islamic Republic's policy in the Persian Gulf which is to keep the region stable and secure, Iranian charge d'affaires in London said.

Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said if Iraqi attacks on shipping are stopped there would be no need for an international conference on the issue.

Referring to Kuwait's request to fly the flags of American, Russian and others powers, he said "the matter of flags will not change our decision to preserve our rights and to see the Persian Gulf safe and secure."

Akhonzadeh who was responding to questions at a press conference in the Iranian Embassy here Friday, expressed dismay over the recent Soviet attitude of intervening in regional affairs and stressed that this would be against Soviet interests.

"The Americans have tested their involvement in the region and have received blows from the militant Muslim people in the area. We do believe that the Russians are very closely following the American experiences.

"We do believe they (Soviet) are somehow or other pragmatic towards certain issues in different parts of the world," he added.

The Iranian charge d'affaires stressed that Kuwait's decision to request the hoisting of foreign flags contradicted the principle of national sovereignty. Iran wants to see an independent Kuwait.

"We do not want to see Kuwait as a state of Iraq. We do not want to see Kuwait as a state or Iran. We want to see Kuwait as an independent and sovereign country in the area.

"For an independent country, naturally it cannot allow its ships to hoist the flags of others. That would contradict independence, because ships are floating territory," Akhonzadeh said.

In his strongest warning to date, President 'Ali Khamene'i Friday held Kuwait responsible for escalating the crisis in the region and stressed that Iran would not retreat "not even one step."

He warned: "Kuwaiti ports, ships and the city of Kuwait is within the range of our artillery fire... and we have other levers to exert pressure."

The Iranian charge d'affaires to London said Iran does not welcome the idea of holding an international conference on Persian Gulf shipping as it would complicate a "simple issue."

"The solution is very easy and simple," he added. "The solution is to stop the Iraqi regime, that is accepting responsibility" [as received] for attacking ships.

On chemical weapons, he warned that Iran is not seeing practical action being taken against the widespread Iraqi use of such weapons and may use "all possible means" to defend itself. Iran now has the capability to launch chemical attacks.

The Iraqis were now using them against their own people, in the villages of Iraqi Kurdestan, and had also recently used them against Khorramshahr, in southern Iran and in parts in the northwest of the country, Akhonzadeh pointed out.

He said Iran expects the current visit of a UN team to Iran investigating Iraq's latest chemical attacks would lead to practical steps by the international organizations to stop further CW attacks on Iran.

"If we are denied, if the international community is going to remain as an observer, the Iranians would use all possible means in their possession to defend themselves."

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COLONEL INTERVIEWED ON IRAQI CHEMICAL ATTACKS

LD261101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 26 Apr 87

["Armed Forces" program; unidentified correspondent's interview with Colonel (name, unit details indistinct); date and place not specified--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Colonel, can you tell us if the Islamic Armed Forces have the capabilities for using chemical weapons against the Ba'thist enemy? Also, if our dear combatants do have these capabilities, why have they not been used?

[Colonel] This is a question which is put to me by every combatant, as I am in charge of this task in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces. They ask why everything else is on a tit-for-tat basis, but not this. There is a live issue involved here. What we claim to have is the Islamic Republic. A woman gives birth to a child, and 3 days later cyanide gas kills the suckling child: If we were to do the same thing, could we really precede the work republic by the word Islamic? It would be unacceptable. We ourselves will not accept this since retaliation in kind has its own laws. It is true that Saddam does not observe any laws, does not feel duty bound to anything. But we do. We do not want to go to a village, to see a woman who has given birth and whose hopes lie in her child, who is then killed by cyanide gas.

We do have it. [as heard] We also have the best experts and can also use (?chemical weapons) when needed, but things have not yet reached that state--that is, I think that the time for its use will not come about. We are in a situation at the battlefronts whereby we have not and will not resort to the use of these gases.

[Correspondent] Could you tell us how many times the Zionist Iraqi regime deployed chemical bombs in the operational sectors in the west of the country during the past several months, and what types of bombs were used?

[Colonel] I cannot say how many times--the word several appears to be too small. At every point when it felt pressured Iraq used gas. It used it most in the "Karbala'-6" operational sector. It dropped chemical rockets [raket] near a hospital, yet the Iraqi pilots knew there were sick and wounded in the hospital. Nothing can justify hitting a hospital. All the sick were affected by the gas, and two of our best physicians, who were excellent surgeons, were martyred as a result.

Iraq uses these weapons a lot in other regions, too. It uses these weapons on the front lines, and also behind the fronts, so that our food and such things are contaminated. But this issue has been solved among our youth: A young man who can tolerate hunger for 48 hours can cope with another lost meal. It would be good if correspondents would come and see, would bring cameras. There is no need to describe those things which the eye can see.

Despite the fact that the combatants have been affected by the gas, if you look at their faces you will observe how they are proud, manly, and are keeping up their strength. They are standing steadfast. It is not as if Iraq has hit only once; it has done this hundreds of times. Even if it were to do so over and over again, our young people will still stand steadfast. And I personally believe that the enemy has gained no benefit from its actions.

The type of gas they used in this sector was mustard gas. This type of gas very quickly causes blisters on the skin. If it enters the lungs it causes sores, which give the victim much pain.

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CSO: 4600/205

TEHRAN CITES ECONOMIC OFFICIAL ON MIDDLEMEN, WAR PROFITEERS

LD270441 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] The supervisor of the Islamic Revolution Tribunal for Economic Affairs, during an interview, announced: The implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution is not limited to a particular time, and we will continue to implement it decisively. We shall reveal the names of those individuals who try to create obstacles in the work of the Tribunal by resorting to trickery, creating an uproar, and by cheating. We will combat middlemen and all those who have made great fortunes in a short time following the victory of the revolution.

Referring to the issue of the return of those who have fled the country, he said: They are divided into four groups: The first group consists of counterrevolutionaries, monarchists, extremist left and right groups, and all those who are opposing the system of the Islamic Republic in some manner, and who are determined to destroy this system. Our duty toward them is clear. They are considered warmongers and corrupt on earth.

The second group are those who have plundered public wealth, who managed to plunder the wealth of the innocent nation and their rights through their ties with the previous regime. We will deal with them with force. Judicially there is no room for leniency for this group, either.

The third group are financial refugees and those who have fled because they owed money to the banks and the government. If they repay their debts, then they can return to Iran and resume their normal lives.

The fourth group are those which have not plundered the public wealth, nor are they members of the warmongering counterrevolutionary groups, or have affiliations with the previous regime. They have only left the country due to the propaganda of the oppressors. They continue their life abroad under the most menial conditions. If they abandon the decadent culture of the West on their return and accept our religious regulations of the Islamic Republic, they would be allowed to return to Iran to continue their normal life. The supervisor of the Islamic Revolution tribunal for Economic Affairs, discussing high prices, said: Due to lack of correct planning and poor distribution and as a result of multiple pricing items, problems have arisen. Middlemen who are trying to destroy the economy of the Islamic Republic have to be dealt with decisively, and we shall uproot them.

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CSO: 4600/205

COMMENTARY VIEWS SUPERPOWER ROLE IN GULF

LD241455 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1119 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] This week, fresh Sahib al-Zaman forces were stationed in special positions to carry out the mission they have been assigned. In its political analysis this week, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI comments on the tremendous rush of fresh mobilization forces to the fronts, to which we draw your attention.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI writes: The extensive rush of the freshly mobilized combatants, as part of the forces of Sahib al-Zaman, God speed his auspicious advent, paved the way for the future activities of the forces of Islam and gave more leeway to decisionmaking centers to implement their prepared plans.

This considerable departure of fresh troops had its effect on the enemy and his protectors and made them greatly anxious. What the Baghdad regime and especially its protectors do nowadays and the anxiety shown by overseas protectors of the Iraqi Ba'thists, is due to nothing but the show of strength by Islam's combatants its determining effects on the fate of the Baghdad regime.

Arrogance, in its eastern and western guises, thought that by creating a hue and cry in the Persian Gulf they could divert attention from the main issue and place obstacles in the path of the extensive departure of the combatants of Islam. But with the extensive departure of the Sahib al-Zaman forces, they found out that the Iranian nation and her combatants have already made their decision to determine the war's fate through military means and end it in favor of Islam.

The root of all the anxieties and worries of the enemies of Islam must be sought in the show of strength by Islam's combatants and especially in the effective and fatal blows dealt to the enemy in the series of operations called Karbala'. If we see that Moscow and Washington have left behind their past stands and have unmasked themselves, it is because they can no longer solve problems with their past methods. They have clearly felt that no one is fooled by the seemingly unbiased remarks of Moscow and Washington; that everyone knows that the United States and USSR have not been and are not impartial in this war, and that they have constantly striven to overtly and covertly support the war criminals ruling over Iraq.

Some people might think that recent stands adopted by Washington and Moscow are signs of a new policy. But, the fact is that the slightest change has not taken

place in the fundamental policy of Moscow and Washington toward the imposed war and on the basis of their support for the war criminals ruling over Iraq. The only new development is the unmasking of the United States and the USSR, whose masks intended to show them to be impartial.

Who would doubt this obvious fact, that this war started in accordance with the U.S. plan and to crush and annihilate the Islamic revolution and continued with ungrudging arms and supplies assistance of Moscow? Who could doubt the fact that since the outset of the war, Moscow and Washington have been engaged in undeclared, but at the same time all-round, cooperation in support of the war criminals ruling over Iraq?

The United States gives military intelligence and Moscow gives the necessary arms and equipment to the Baghdad regime, so that the Ba'thists can commit the lowest forms of crimes against the Iranian nation and its revolution. Moscow and Washington have not been impartial in this war even for one moment. What Soviet and U.S. politicians are saying now bring one the same conclusion.

If the deputy Soviet foreign minister, during his series of visits to some regional shaykhdoms, talks about the necessity for ending the war and stopping the shipment of arms to the two warring sides, it is because Moscow feels that the continuation of the war would no longer be in Moscow's interest, and that the sending of more weapons by the Soviet Union would not have the slightest effect upon the Baghdad regime's fighting capability. Moscow has described the main aim behind the visit of Vldimir Petrovskiy to the shaykhdoms of the region to be the investigation of various solutions for ending the 7-year-old war between Iran and Iraq. In the first instance, some people might think that [word indistinct] in this venture Moscow has been acting with goodwill, while even in this case it is not so. Moscow knows the solution to ending the war.

If Moscow was really worried about this war and the possibility of its expansion, then it should have refrained from sending modern weapons to Iraq, providing for all the military needs of the Ba'thists, and the signing a treaty of friendship with war criminals. Those who sign a treaty of friendship with war criminals cannot claim that they are impartial and cannot present themselves as the harbingers of peace and the protectors of the security in the region because no one will accept this claim from them.

At the moment, Moscow is trying to have an active policy toward the issue of the war and the security of shipping in the Persian Gulf, and by sending a special envoy to the shaykhs of the region it is trying to explain its views to them. Although a different explanation has been given for the dispatch of that delegation [as heard], the truth is that Moscow wishes to use the regional shaykhs' worry and anxiety in her own interest to find a foothold in the Persian Gulf.

By joining the U.S. plan for leasing Soviet tankers to Kuwait, Moscow is following a more important goal, and that is a clear and accepted military-political presence in the Persian Gulf. This has always been one of Moscow's biggest dreams. Moscow has concluded that the conditions are now right for establishing

a foothold in the Persian Gulf and for announcing the USSR's political-military presence in the region and that if it does not use this opportunity it might lose this chance forever.

However, the issue is somewhat different. Washington has manipulated the Russians in the Persian Gulf and wishes to involve the Russians in its aggressive acts, hoping that they might have a presence in probably future events and to evaluate the situation from close quarters, so that if a difficulty arose in the implementation of certain actions, then both sides would regard themselves equally committed to solving them and that both sides would see their interests equally endangered.

If the involvement in Vietnam was the U.S. blot of shame; if it was in that country where the U.S.'s nose was rubbed in the dirt; and if Afghanistan is the country where the Red Army is facing a dead end, then it seems that in the Persian Gulf both super-powers are destined to be branded with an eternal blot of shame upon their brows. This is a fact that can be understood even by the shaykhs of the region. Their hesitant behavior demonstrates that although they have invited the superpowers to be present in the region they nevertheless are worried about future events and the consequences of the actions they have initiated. They invited the superpowers to provide some assurance to the anxious and faint hearts of the shaykhs of the region; yet now they feel that the presence of the domineering powers increase their anxiety and has added to their internal trepidation. At the moment, the shaykhs of the region have realized to some extent that their internal trepidation will not be solved by such tactics, and that if the superpowers ever intend to engage in any action in the region, the shaykhs of the region would be among the first victims of the restraining [as heard] acts of the nations of the region.

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CSO: 4600/205

COMMENTARY ON TUNISIAN OPPPOSITION

NC260953 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group entitled: "The Intensification of Opposition in Tunisia"]

[Text] Tunisian cities continue to be the scene of popular demonstrations and opposition against the Tunisian regime. Various groups of Muslims and disgruntled Tunisians organized a march Thursday [23 April] afternoon, shouting slogans against the regime of the 83-year-old Bourguiba. The demonstrators distributed statements, pictures of Islamic movement leaders, and flowers among the people. The statements condemned the regime's despotism and called for the release of imprisoned Muslims. Placards expressing disgust with the regime's suppressive measures were raised. The police attacked the demonstrators with tear gas. During the ensuing clashes, several police vehicles were set on fire. Anti-riot police then entered the scene and government forces surrounded the city. The security measures already in place around government buildings, the French Embassy, and the American Cultural Center in Tunis were tightened. According to news agency reports, dozens of people were arrested and a large number of others were wounded during these clashes.

In the wake of this incident, the Tunisian Ambassador to France alleged that calm had returned to Tunisia and that opponents of the regime had been crushed. The Tunisian state press carried articles describing these opponents as terrorists and calling for the formation of a united front to confront them. The articles once again attributed these incidents to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Such statements by Tunisian officials and the press undoubtedly are efforts to veil the true reality of these incidents. They are being used as a weapon to further crush the Islamic movement among the Tunisian people. The events in Tunisia are not an outcome of recent incidents. Over the years, Tunisia has repeatedly witnessed the people's movement toward Islam and their opposition to the policies of the leadership. The massive riots in 1980 resulted in the Tunisian Government's appeal to French forces to crush the people. Tunisia was also the scene of popular demonstrations, strikes, protests, and great brutality on the part of government forces in 1981. The reason for unrest in Tunisia should therefore be sought in the acts and outlook adopted by the government during the last 30 years. In other words, one can say that the activities pursued by the Bourguiba regime since 1956 are solely responsible for paving the way for general protests.

The Tunisian rulers have always implemented their opposition to Islam in the form of laws. Declaring Islamic movements to be defunct, stopping publications, closing down Islamic publishing centers, banning Islamic dress for women, prohibiting religious duties, and even banning prayers for military personnel are some of the subversive policies implemented by the Tunisian regime. They also attempted to impose these policies on all the various strata of Tunisian society. However, Tunisia's lifelong leader was not content with this. He has persistently tried to impose Western thought, traditions, ideas and Western culture in general on the Muslim Tunisian nation. All this because Tunisian officials believe that Islam and any attraction to it is tantamount to opposition against the ruling regime's sociopolitical way of life.

Paving the way for the expansion and strengthening of the occupiers of Jerusalem and for the powerful to dominate North Africa are among the most important factors of Tunisia's foreign policy. Obviously, the adoption of such policies is not based on the wants and beliefs of Tunisia's Muslims. In fact, these policies completely contradict the objectives of Muslims.

The contradictions between Tunisia's regime and people have reached their culmination at the same time that an Islamic awakening is being spread throughout the entire region of North Africa. Under such conditions, the Tunisian leaders have hastily begun to confront the people and tighten their ruling strangulation by means of suppression and arrests. These acts, along with the implementation of dogmatic economic and social policies, have hurt the feelings of the Tunisian people.

What is happening in Tunisia today is the outcome of the policies of its leadership, policies which have always been associated with great mistakes. The Tunisian Government has refused to accept the people's logical demands. It seeks to continue a policy of suppression and repression. According to news agency reports, the Tunisian people will soon witness a trial of the leaders and young members of various Islamic groups. Informed observers believe that the closure of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Tunisia was an attempt to justify the intensified suppression of the Tunisian people's Muslim movement. However, the establishment of sham courts and the possible execution of youths arrested on charges of leaning toward Islam will certainly not ease the country's present situation.

The Tunisian dictatorship has also limited the activities of the mass media. The editor in chief of the independent weekly TUNIS AL-RA'Y announced on Wednesday that the magazine had been confiscated by government officials three times in the last 2 months. He noted that this had been prompted by the publication of reports on Muslim demonstrations, as well as by the support which Tunisian Muslim circles and government opponents have extended to the magazine. Because of the limitations imposed by the regime, the AL-RA'Y editor in chief added, the magazine's board of directors had decided to suspend publication for an unspecified period.

Strong opposition to the approach to be adopted to deal with the current domestic crisis and tension has led to disagreement among Tunisian officials. Tunisian Foreign Minister Bedi Mabrouk went to the United States last week to seek

a solution to existing problems and to receive subjugating loans in an attempt to put Tunisia's chaotic economy into order. This country is presently suffering from reduced incomes, unemployment, and an increased cost of living. News agencies have noted that the United States has earmarked \$70 million in aid to Tunisia. During this trip, Mabrouk also met with various officials of the Reagan Administration. It seems that the Tunisian regime continues to be entangled in its past mistakes and that it is seeking a remedy for its ills by committing even more mistakes.

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CSO: 4600/205

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES POLICY OF 'INDIFFERENCE'

NC261509 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Commentary from the "Developments on the Front" feature]

[Excerpts] UN General Assembly Resolution 2162, dated 16 December 1966, clearly states that the use of chemicals, whether in a gaseous, liquid, or solid form, which are harmful to human and animal life and vegetation is banned in war. UN General Assembly Resolution 2603 stipulates that the use of all chemical and biological weapons in war is contrary to the norms of international law. On 7 December 1970, the UN General Assembly issued Resolution 2662 which once again states that the use of chemical weapons in any form or quantity is to be banned. Another such resolution, dated 29 November 1972, reiterates this ban on the use of chemical weapons.

These are only a few examples of explicit UN resolutions banning the use of biological weapons. At first glance these very clear resolutions suggest that international organizations, led by the United Nations, are preventing governments from resorting to the use of such weapons and that they will continue to apply pressure against any government that intends to use them. But has this important task, which is one of the vital duties of these international organizations in safeguarding human values, been taken seriously? Have these organizations in fact been able--or more precisely, wanted--to adopt a suitable and principled stand vis-a-vis the inhuman governments that violate these laws?

Such are the questions now being asked by the world in view of the chemical crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi Ba'thists on the fronts of their war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The world rightly asks: Why doesn't the United Nations carry out its primary duty with regard to these crimes. More importantly, why do international organizations tacitly support the Iraqi Ba'thists' blatant violations of the law? The United Nations and other so-called responsible international circles cannot claim to be unaware that such crimes are being committed. In view of the fact that ordinary people know about the horrible dimensions of Iraq's chemical crimes, officials from these organizations cannot feign ignorance that such crimes are taking place.

Contrary to its own desire, the UN Security Council has been compelled by public opinion to issue statements about the Iran-Iraq war in the past. One such statement, read by the UN Security Council president, overtly condemned the

Ba'thist regime for using poisonous gases. It now seems suitable time to ask: Have the enemies been able to solve any problems for the Baghdad rulers? Apart from being disgracefully recognized as war criminals, have the Ba'thist leaders been able to change the course of the victorious battle being fought by the defenders of Islam?

In one of its issues, the British magazine THE MIDDLE EAST has written the following: Now that the Ba'thist regime has upset the dream that there is some sort of international control on chemical weapons, the possibility that there will be an expanded use of this weapon in other parts of the world seems definite. The Ba'thist regime has used chemical weapons several time, but has not been punished in any war. In conclusion, the magazine refers to the 1925 protocol banning the use of chemical weapons, noting that this protocol has never been so overtly violated as it is today.

We should also discuss what impacts the enemy's biological crimes have had on the Iranian nation's intensions and determination. Have these crimes terrorized the Iranian nation? Have these maniacal acts by the Baghdad rulers thrown the Iranian people off the course of their just struggles? Obviously the answer to both question is no. What can be said in a nutshell is that this reckless regime is continuously increasing its crimes, confident that the various international organizations will remain indifferent. Witnessing this fact, the Iranian nation now realizes more celarly than ever before that it must depend on its own strength alone if it is to put an end to the enemy's aggression and crime.

Those who are in charge of international organizations have adopted silence as their policy. The world has been plunged into an atmosphere of indifference created by the propaganda machinery of the arrogant. Governments of the world either pour oil on the fire or they have adopted a policy of silence and indifference. If the criminals, who have sharpened their filthy claws and now want to attack the revolution, are to be crushed, the heroic Iranian nation must--like before--confront the enemy with machineguns and rely on their faith. By poinding the last breath out of these dying criminals, the Iranian nation will bring those responsible for such horrendous crimes to trial.

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CSO: 4600/205

COMMENTARY URGES CONDEMNATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

NC250848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Developments on the Fronts" feature]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi ruling regime has once again used chemical weapons in a recent attack. As you, our noble Iranian nation, know, this is not the first time that the enemy has resorted to the use of chemical weapons in blatant violation of all international norms and regulations. You are also aware of the fact that the Saddam regime has never shown one iota of remorse for having perpetrated such an inhuman atrocity. This regime has both indirectly and overtly admitted to these activities.

The present conditions make it imperative for us to assess the situation from different angles. The principal questions that arise in one's mind with regard to this harmful mischief being perpetrated by the enemy are the following: What is the real impetus behind these measures? What motivates the enemy to blatantly flout international norms? In other words, what changes have taken place on the warfront to force the enemy to again resort to the use of such weapons? The only answer to such questions is found in the consecutive victories of our Islamic combatants. No other reason exists.

The Iraqi regime's dastardly and extensive use of chemical weapons on the warfronts has also affected Iraqi villages. Some Kurd-inhabited areas have likewise been the victim of chemical bombs jettisoned by Iraqi aircraft. In this regard, international organizations, and the United Nations in particular, have a very sensitive role to play. The measures adopted by Iraq portend dangers not only for this region, but on an international level as well. If the use of chemical weapons is considered a normal phenomenon here, then it will be impossible to guarantee its prohibition elsewhere in the world. This is the reason behind the repeated calls to international organizations. This is why Iranian officials have issued numerous statements specifically on the need for public and international condemnation of this state of affairs.

One point worth mentioning here is that the UN Organization's dispatch of an investigating team or its issuance of ambiguous statements do not constitute concrete means of preventing the use of such weapons. The least this organization can do is to clearly and publicly announce the results of its investigations and condemn the regime which has used chemical weapons. Another aspect to be

considered in this regard is just what our nation and combatants can do to deal with the issue. Should Iran remain silent in the face of this harmful mischief and simply amuse itself with hollow statements? Should it sit with arms folded and allow the aggressor to continue all kinds of crimes without the least fear? Of course the Islamic forces have taken effective measures to defend the country against the enemy's chemical attacks. The innovative and appropriate methods they have adopted have mitigated losses to a great extent. However, are these measures adequate to prevent the enemy from committing such crimes in the future.

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CSO: 4600/205

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIAN RECEIVES TV PROTEST--Tehran, 24 April, IRNA--Australian Ambassador John Leslie Lander was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry here and was given a note of protest on a programme broadcast on Australian TV in which the sanctities of the Islamic Revolution were profaned. Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykhholeslam handed the note to the Australian ambassador. The ambassador was told that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be indifferent to such propaganda plots. "Acts which harm the sentiments of the Iranian Muslim nation will evoke a strong and suitable response," Lander was told. The Australian diplomat expressed his country's deep concern over the event, which he termed 'unjustifiable and unfair.' He furthermore said Australia formally regrets the affair. Lander expressed hope that the issue would not have a negative impact on the expanding relations between the two countries. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 24 Apr 87 LD] /12232

KDP URGES IRAQI CONDEMNATION--Urumiyeh, West Azarbajian Prov, 25 April, IRNA--Political Bureau of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] called on the international circles and freedom-loving governments to condemn the Baghdad regime for its 'bestial' [as received] in chemical bombardment of Kurdish-populated region in northern Iraq. In a statement released Saturday, the Bureau called on democratic governments to take serious measures to prevent Iraq from committing further atrocities. "Although international conventions outlaw the use of chemical weapons, the Baghdad Government has not only repeatedly used the internationally-banned weapons during the imposed war against Muslim combatants of Iran, but has also subjected Kurdish-populated areas in Iraq to them twice in 48 hours," said the statement. "There are few recorded instances of governments perpetrating such crimes against their own nation," stressed the statement. Numerous innocent villagers were martyred and wounded by the toxic gases used by Iraq, added the statement. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 25 Apr 87 LD] /12232

MUSAVI REITERATES AFGHAN SUPPORT--Tehran, 25 April, IRNA--Prime Minister Huseyn Musavi said here Saturday that support for the just struggle of the Afghan Muslim people is Iran. [as received] "The Islamic Republic has been faithful to this policy even under the hardest conditions and will continue its support for the liberative struggle of Afghans in the future," noted Musavi. The premier told a group of visiting representatives of Afghan Muslim groups fighting the occupiers of their country that the future of Afghanistan belongs to the Afghan people and that nobody could prevent the Afghans from exercising self-rule.

Musavi said that the more the Afghan opposition groups consolidate their unity the sooner they can grow into a mighty entity for establishing an Islamic system in their country. It is incumbent upon world Muslims to back the just struggle of the Afghan Muslim people, the prime minister said. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 25 Apr 87 LD] /12232

DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MANAGUA--Tehran, 27 April, IRNA--An Iranian delegation led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi Savedji arrived in Managua, the Nicaraguan capital Sunday, to participate in the 77th interparliamentary Union (IPU) meet. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by several Nicaraguan parliamentary deputies and Iranian Ambassador to Managua Seyyed Reza Haj Zargar-Bashi. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 27 Apr 87 LD] /12232

CSO: 4600/205

BRIEFS

ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS--His majesty the king accepted credentials from Ambassador Li Debiao of the People's Republic of China, Mohammad Khodor of the Syrian Republic, Yehya Zal-Radhi of the Yemin Arab Republic, and James G. Harris of Canada amidst separate functions at Narayanhity Royal Palace Friday [17 April] afternoon. [Excerpt] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 18 Apr 87 p 1 BK] /12232

PRIME MINISTER, JAPANESE JAYCEES--Katmandu, 26 April KYODO--The visiting delegation of Japan Jaycees met Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha at his office Sunday afternoon, Nepalese officials said. Led by Masahiro Murakami, the 23-member delegation arrived Thursday to help Nepal Jaycees launch a pilot program to fight Japanese encephalitis in Nepal. The delegation which includes doctors and public health experts is also scheduled to visit Bangladesh where Japan Jaycees are supporting the government's "Aqua-Aid" movement, an oral rehydration program to combat diarrhea among children. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 26 Apr 87 OW] /12232

CSO: 4600/206

INDIAN PAPER SAYS JUNEJO GOVERNMENT 'FAÇADE'

BK241227 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Apr 87 p 6

[Editorial: "A Tall Claim"]

[Text] The Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has given an interesting version of the circumstances in which two army generals were recently retired on the completion of their tenure. Since it has been the practice in Pakistan to give extension to top officers, these retirements raised many an eyebrow. Mr Junejo has now claimed in London that actually General Zia wanted to give an extension to the two generals in keeping with the practice but did not do so since he, the prime minister, had opposed the proposal. If true, this must be a rare instance indeed of the Pakistani strongman having heeded a lesser man's advice. Mr Junejo's main aim has obviously been to try and convince his audience in Britain that he is heading a genuinely civilian government and as such had the final say on the extension issue.

Mr Junejo is mistaken if he thinks that he will thus be able to hide the reality in Pakistan which is that his government is no more than a facade for Gen Zia's rule. After formally ending martial law, Gen Zia has enthroned himself as the president and has taken good care to continue as the army chief of staff, too. And no one knows how long he intends to remain as the repository of all power. Ms Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and many other opposition parties have not stopped expressing serious doubts about his intention to hold free elections as scheduled by 1990. This apart, Mr Junejo is apparently trying to minimise the effect in Britain of the vociferous agitation being carried on there by large numbers of people of Pakistani origin for restoration of democracy in Pakistan. It is unlikely that Mr Junejo's exercise in public relations will be of any avail.

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CSO: 4600/207

JATOI CRITICIZES FORMATION OF SBPF

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 87 p 5

[Text]

SIALKOT, April 17: Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Chairman, National People's Party, severely criticised the formation of Sind-Baluch-Pakistan Front (SBPF) as according to him, it aimed at confrontation between the Punjab and smaller provinces.

Addressing party workers at Chaprar, Sambrial and Narowal, he appreciated the people of the Punjab that they did not react to it adversely. He said that in order to satisfy the people of all regions the quantum of provincial autonomy must be increased and a sensitive issue like this must be settled according to people's wishes. The demand that everything should be divided equally among the four Provinces was not at all wise as it aimed at creating mistrust among the people of the Punjab against others and instigating them against the people of other regions.

Mr. Jatoi said it was wrong to say that the MRD's 1984 movement, launched in the country for the restoration of democracy, had failed, because Martial Law re-

gime had to bow before the will of the people and the elections were held and Assemblies came into being.

The NPP Chief expressed the view that only real democracy could keep the country intact and united. He further said that solidarity and integrity of Pakistan were the goal of his party. He said if the fresh elections on party basis were not held and power was not transferred to the real representatives of the people, the fast deteriorating conditions could not improve and law and order could not be restored.

Mr. Jatoi further said that mere slogans, false promises and lip-service to poor masses would not work now. Concrete steps, he added, shall have to be taken to lift the masses out of the present economic depression.

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CSO: 4600/209

ISLAMIC STUDIES UNIVERSITY TO BE A BRANCH OF AL-AZHAR

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 87 p 7

[Text]

KARACHI, April 17: Dr. Rauf Shalabi, Deputy Sheikh of the Al-Azhar University, Egypt, has said the University of Islamic Studies being set up in Karachi would be a full-fledged branch of Al-Azhar.

Talking to PPI here today, he said a decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Board of Governors of Al-Azhar.

He said the varsity being constructed at a cost of about Rs. 23 million was already functioning in a single building with about 120 students, mostly foreigners, on its roll.

He said these students from Pakistan, Egypt, Thailand, the Philippines, Nepal, Somalia, Uganda, Bangladesh and some European countries, were housed in a single building hostel and were getting all facilities, including medical treatment.

He disclosed that six professors from Al-Azhar University had already arrived in Pakistan and were imparting knowledge of Islamic studies, Dawah and Um-

mah. However, in about two to three years time other full-fledged subjects pertaining to Islamic studies and English would also be taught at the varsity, he added.

Dr. Rauf said the University would be fully operational by 1990. The cost of its construction would be borne by UAE States, Pakistan and donations from philanthropists.

He also referred to a donation of Rs. 1 million made by Sheikh Qasim Dervish of Doha during the foundation stone laying ceremony of the university on Thursday here.

He said plans were also under consideration to establish branches of the varsity in Islamabad, Lahore and Quetta in the next few years.

Dr. Rauf added that the University in Karachi would also offer facilities for research work in Islamic Studies and all courses would be conducted through the Al-Azhar University.—PPI.

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CSO: 4600/209

MINISTER TALKS ABOUT HOUSING PROBLEMS, PLANS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 87 p 5

[Text]

KARACHI, April 17: The Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Haji Hanif Tayyab, said here today that a working paper will be prepared on housing problems in Pakistan in the light of experiences of other countries in this sector and thereafter, a presentation will be made before the Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo.

He was talking to newsmen on arrival here from Baghdad after attending the International Conference of U.N. Commission for Human Settlement held in Nairobi from April 6-16.

The Federal Minister, who also visited Saudi Arabia and participated in the holy ceremony of 'Ghusl-i-Kaaba', told newsmen that some countries of the world had taken up the issue of rehabilitation of shelterless people as a Jihad and we have obtained their literature and details in this regard for study.

He said that he presented the programme of Pakistan at the conference regarding regularisation of 2,300 'katchi abadis' in the country and also the availability of 2.2 million plots for shelterless people in the urban and rural areas.

Haji Hanif Tayyab said that the U.N. has declared 1987 as the International Year for the Rehabilitation of Shelterless People and in that context the delegates of over a 100 countries who attended the Conference in Nairobi presented their papers and had exchange of views.

He said Pakistan would benefit in the light of their experiences in the field of low-cost housing, par-

ticularly the experiences gained by Sri Lanka, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey.

He said he also met the Executive Director of the U.N. and exchanged views on the possibility of funding the low-cost housing schemes in Pakistan.

He said the U.N. Executive Director had appreciation for a quotation from Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo's speech in which he had stated that he wanted every Pakistani having a piece of land on which he could have his own house and live with peace.

Haji Hanif Tayyab said the U.N. Executive Director told him that this quotation will be published in all the U.N. literature on housing.

The Federal Housing Minister said that he held talks with the U.N. official on Master Plan for Karachi and also discussed Orangi and Surjani housing schemes and Beach Development Plan.

He said documentary produced by the Ministry of Housing and KDA was also shown for the participants of the Conference.

To a question, the Minister said that many countries presented the problem of loan facility to people intending to construct their houses on the plots allotted to them.

He said they stressed the need for strengthening such organisations as the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) in Pakistan for providing loans for house & buildings. In this regard, a Committee was also formed which would provide guidelines for the purpose on behalf of U.N.-APP.

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CSO: 4600/209

MINISTER STATES ELECTRIFICATION TARGETS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 87 p 5

[Text]

LAHORE, April 17: More than 90 per cent of the villages in the rural areas will be electrified by 1990 under the five-point programme of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

This was disclosed by the Provincial Minister for Irrigation and Power, Chaudhry Mohammad Iqbal, while talking to APP here today.

He said that under this programme 1300 villages were electrified during 1985-86 and the electrification target for 1986-87 had been fixed at more than 2,000 villages. The project would cost

Rs. 3 crore.

The Minister said the Punjab Government under the five-point programme was giving priority to the development of rural areas and providing basic amenities to the rural population.

He said that roads, electricity and water were the basic needs of the rural population and efforts were being made to provide at the earliest.

The Provincial Minister said that electricity was also being provided to the tubewells in rural areas so that adequate water could be available to the farmers.
—APP.

/9274

CSO: 4600/209

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN JAFFNA DISTRICT

Situation in North, Colombo

BK221238 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Article by Barry Parker]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Apr (AFP)--The Sri Lankan Armed Forces launched a major offensive to wipe out the two main Tamil guerrilla groups Wednesday following the slaughter of more than 300 people in 6 days, government sources said.

Two waves of aerial bombardments against five targets in the Tamil-dominated Jaffna Peninsula in the north were completed Wednesday and at least 80 rebels killed or wounded, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The offensive was against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful separatist force, and the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (EROS), which the government holds jointly responsible for the bombing here Tuesday that left at least 115 dead and nearly 200 injured.

Government sources said a few civilians had been among those killed in the air attacks, but that civilians had been repeatedly told to flee rebel strongholds or remain at their own risk.

In Madras, southern India, an LTTE spokesman said fierce fighting was underway on the Jaffna Peninsula, and that Sri Lankan forces were bombarding civilian targets and had killed at least two people.

Government sources in Colombo said the death toll from the offensive could be very high and that further waves of air attacks against known LTTE and EROS targets would follow.

The attack will include carpet bombing if necessary, the sources said.

The forces do not want to have to take Jaffna town, the main urban concentration on the peninsula where some 220,000 [figure as received] people live, but this cannot be ruled out eventually, reliable sources said.

The government issued a statement after a crisis Cabinet meeting saying it would "continue unreservedly to strike at all LTTE and EROS targets until the killing of civilians and the attempts to impede the peace process are abandoned."

Senior government sources said the presence of civilians in the rebel strongholds on the peninsula, which has held back a major offensive in the past, would no longer prevent the Armed Forces from moving in.

The government statement added that it was now very clear that the LTTE and EROS did not want a peaceful solution to the conflict, which has killed more than 5,000 since mid-1983.

"All measures to eliminate terrorists and terrorism throughout the island" will be taken, it said.

Meanwhile, in the heart of the capital security forces fired over the heads of looters forcing them to disperse as police carried out a grisly clean-up operation following the bloodiest violence Colombo has seen in the Tamil campaign for an independent homeland.

Barefoot labourers were still finding severed limbs among the debris which littered the central bus station, where the blast took place at rush hour here Tuesday.

A police officer in charge of the clearing operation did not rule out the discovery of further bodies inside devastated shops.

Medical sources said there were 77 bodies in the police morgue and another 38 in Colombo General Hospital.

Another 190 wounded people are in hospital and 20 were said to be in "very dangerous condition," doctors said.

In the confusion which followed the blast, senior medical sources had estimated the number of dead to be about 150.

The authorities fear the death toll will rise.

Police said they had fired teargas at looters who stoned a police station near the bus station and had opened fire on would-be looters on the night here of Tuesday and Wednesday.

An all-night curfew was lifted for 4 hours from dawn here Wednesday but was re-imposed for a further 20 hours as mobs began to gather.

The authorities have voiced fears of a backlash by the Sinhalese majority community against the Tamil minority.

Tamil prisoners were removed from the capital's jail after Sinhalese convicts tried to attack them, the officials added.

Three Tamils were said to have been injured.

The blast followed the slaughter of 142 people in two shootings on Friday and Monday, which provoked calls from leading Sinhalese and Buddhist organizations for action to halt the massacres.

Senior government sources said the decision to launch the offensive was a major shift in Cabinet policy, which has always been to avoid any civilian casualties, but that the green light had been given unanimously.

Before the first air attacks were launched the LTTE attacked an army base at Kankasanthurai on the peninsula's northern coast, killing 18 members of the Security Forces.

Sixteen LTTE corpses were left behind, the officials added, and it was thought 20 had been killed.

Officials said LTTE guerrillas posing as civilian cement workers had attacked the base, and denied rebel claims to have captured it.

The LTTE said in Madras that five guerrillas had been killed along with 20 government troops.

Down the east coast near Pulmuddai in Trincomalee District 15 soldiers lost their lives when a landmine exploded, the officials said.

The government is convinced the three massacres, mainly of civilians, were part of a major offensive by the rebels in which members of all the island's communities, including Tamils, are targets, government sources said.

Air Strikes on 'Terrorist' Bases

BK231113 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1029 GMT 23 Apr 87

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)--The Media Centre in Colombo in a government communique issued this afternoon stated that air strikes on terrorist bases in the Jaffna Peninsula will now be continued whenever necessary and only on known terrorist bases. Yesterday evening terrorists fired mortars at the Jaffna Fort army camp.

A soldier was slightly wounded and troops retaliated with mortar fire.

Yesterday, at Adampan, Mannar District, north west Sri Lanka LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists abducted and killed Jamaldeen Ayun.

LTTE claimed that Jamaldeen Ayun was a traitor to their cause.

At Singakuly, Trincomalee Security Forces raided an LTTE base and captured seven terrorists and recovered arms, ammunition, hand grenades, and a radio communication set.

23 Apr Situation

BK231110 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Article by Barry Parker]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Apr (AFP)--The Sri Lankan Air Force bombed Tamil rebel bases on the Jaffna Peninsula for the second day running Thursday, following up air raids Wednesday that killed at least 80 Tamils, official sources here said.

(In Madras in southern India a spokesman for the strongest Tamil separatist guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), said about 200 Tamil civilians had been killed in the air raids Wednesday and Thursday.)

Ground-attack planes with helicopter support were bombing and strafing four known rebel bases on the northern Sri Lankan peninsula after hitting five targets Wednesday official sources said.

Officials said at least 68 Tamil rebels and 12 civilians had been killed at the start of a big offensive to wipe out the two main guerrilla groups.

Casualty figures from Thursday's raids were not available, although military sources said the attacks had probably been less intense than Wednesday's.

(In Madras, LTTE spokesman Thilagar said none of the LTTE bases in Sri Lanka had been attacked in the air raids and that his civilian death toll of 200 had been compiled from "independent sources.")

("Thousands in the peninsula are fleeing their homes to take sanctuary in the interior," he added.)

Tamil sources here, quoting reports from the North, said the casualty toll was far higher than the government admitted and estimated four civilians were being killed to every guerrilla.

The government has said the heavy civilian presence on the peninsula will no longer stop the armed forces from mounting an offensive. It has repeatedly warned civilians to move out of areas where separatists have bases.

Some 220,000 people live on the peninsula.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the armed forces would continue to hunt down the LTTE and the Eelam Revolutionary

Organization of Students (EROS), which the government blames for the massacre of some 300 people in the past 6 days.

"We will attack the LTTE and EROS anywhere in the country," he said shortly before parliament was due to extend a state of emergency for another month.

Mr Athulathmudali said the air force had hit targets at Chavakachcheri, Point Pedro, Mandi, and Palally, all on the peninsula.

But Tamil sources said the main urban concentration of Jaffna town, which is under rebel control, and the three coastal areas of Kankansanthurai, Velvattihurai, and Palally had been bombed.

The damage from Wednesday's air raids is extensive, these sources said.

Military sources said separatists had mortared army camps at Jaffna Fort and Kankansanthurai Wednesday but that only one soldier suffered minor wounds.

(Mr Thilagar said 46 government soldiers and six separatists guerrillas had been killed in 2 days of fierce fighting in the North and East.

The security forces were attacking with artillery, mortars and gunboats, besides helicopters, he said.)

In the capital, a curfew was re-imposed after a 4-hour relaxation from dawn here to enable people to shop for provisions.

The curfew was imposed 3 hours after a bomb exploded in a commercial district at rush hour here Tuesday.

Officially at least 11 were killed and nearly 200 wounded. But the medical authorities were Thursday still trying to determine exactly how many corpses had been found. Totals obtained from a variety of sources suggested the final toll would be around 140.

An emotional crowd of about 200 relatives and friends of the bomb victims who gathered outside the city morgue Thursday to identify or collect bodies were teargassed by police, witnesses said.

The witnesses said the clash had occurred after emotions boiled over and the crowd responded to rough police treatment by throwing stones.

Heavily armed riot police prevented a march Thursday by about 400 Buddhist monks and students calling for the government to resign over the killing of hundreds of civilians, witnesses said.

The monks wanted to hand a petition to President Junius Jayewardene demanding that the government resign for failing to protect innocent lives.

The protesters did not try to break through police lines, witnesses said.

A leader of the protest, S. P. Senaratne, who heads several high-wing Buddhist groups, said the government should let the army take over.

"The government has not been able to protect civilians as a democratic government should," he said.

Additional Private Secretary to the President C. D. Silva accepted a petition from the monks, who then agreed to disperse.

One monk was injured when scuffles broke out between police and protesters near the hospital where the demonstrators later re-grouped, witnesses said.

Some of the demonstrators said they wanted to take dismembered bodies from the hospital and dump them on the president's doorstep. The area of the president's house was cordoned off by police and soldiers, witnesses said.

The New Zealand cricket team called off its tour to Sri Lanka Thursday because "civil unrest" made it impossible for the team to concentrate on the cricket tour manager Ken Deas said.

(In Wellington, New Zealand Cricket Council Chairman Bob Vance said several players had demanded to return home after Tuesday's bomb blast in Colombo.)

The main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) expressed "sorrow and anguish" at the recent massacres but said: "Retaliatory bombings affecting civilian lives and property should be equally condemned."

I called for an immediate cessation of hostilities by all sides and the "restoration of the peace process."

(Reliable sources said the Indian authorities, which have been trying to mediate in the conflict, had called two LTTE leaders, Anton Balasingham and Mr Thilagar, to New Delhi. Mr Thilagar denied this.)

Air Force Plans to Continue

BK240354 Hong Kong AFP in English 0341 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Colombo, 24 Apr (AFP)--The Sri Lankan Air Force would bomb Tamil rebel bases on the northern peninsula of Jaffna Friday for the third day running, official sources said.

The government Thursday said that more than 100 Tamil guerrillas had been killed in the raids by ground attack planes and helicopters.

The Air Force launched an offensive to wipe out the northern peninsula strongholds of the two main rebel groups--the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS)--after declaring them jointly responsible for the massacre of some 300 people on the island in the last week.

Official sources said raids by ground attack planes and helicopters would be pursued Friday and added that "if there is a need," the bombardment would continue over the weekend.

But as the government announced that 100 people had been killed on the Jaffna peninsula in the raids. Tamil sources, who had Thursday put the death toll at 200, most of them civilians, said the casualty figures were much lower than at first feared.

The Tamil sources on Friday said that according to their latest information fewer than 50 people had died.

Witnesses who returned here Thursday said that hundreds of people were fleeing a district of Jaffna which had been shelled heavily since Wednesday.

The government has warned that the presence of civilians in and around the Tamil bases would no longer prevent them from attacking. The government has pledged to wipe out all LTTE and EROS bases in Sri Lanka.

Tamil rebel spokesmen in Madras, southern India, on Thursday said that about 200 civilians had been killed in the bombing.

Meanwhile here in the capital, as the opposition called for the government to resign over its failure to protect civilian lives, about 2,000 prisoners went on hunger strike at Colombo's Welikada jail, newspapers reported.

The daily SUN said that the Sinhala prisoners were refusing to take food after being prevented from attacking Tamil prisoners after a bomb exploded in Colombo Tuesday, killing about 115 people.

The Sinhala inmates tried to attack the Tamils, but were prevented by riot squad officers and the Tamil prisoners, held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, were immediately moved to a heavily guarded school in the capital.

A curfew was lifted from the capital at dawn Friday until 1430 GMT when it would be re-imposed until dawn Saturday, the authorities said.

The curfew was first clamped on the capital 2 hours after Tuesday's bomb blast and has remained in force every day except for a few hours from dawn to allow people to buy provisions.

Shelling of Jaffna Fort

EK271545 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan Air Force planes attacked the camps of Tamil Eelam freedom fighters, especially those of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Tellippalai, Arawatta, and Jaffna today. At the same time, the army resorted to shelling from the Fort [Jaffna Fort] army camp (to a considerable extent).

No immediate reports about the loss of life and property have reached our station.

The Voice of Tamil Eelam requests our beloved people to avoid curious onlooking during air raids and to seek adequately safe bunkers. We request them to totally avoid group movements, to avoid seeing spots of bombardments and trying to meddle with unexploded bombs. Let us avoid any unnecessary loss and be prudent.

Tamils Say No Talks

BK250734 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Apr (AFP)--Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group has told India that it will agree to negotiations only when Colombo calls off its military offensive against Tamil guerrillas, Tamil sources said Saturday.

Two senior leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) informed Indian mediators Friday that the militants also desired an end to a blockade on fuel shipments to Jaffna peninsula, the sources here said.

The LTTE leaders, including political adviser Anton Balasingam, arrived here Thursday for discussions with the Indian Government after a fresh outbreak of violence in Sri Lanka left nearly 400 dead last week.

The fuel blockade was imposed on the Jaffna peninsula 2 January in a bid to put pressure on the militants. Colombo has denied guerrilla allegations that Tamils have starved to death due to the blockade.

The LTTE, which on Thursday denied that its leaders had been called to New Delhi, refused comments Saturday on the talks here between its representatives and India's External Affairs Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari and Minister of State for Home Affairs Palaniappan Chidamabram.

Sri Lanka has blamed the LTTE and its ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), for Tuesday's bomb blast in Colombo which left at least 115 dead and about 200 injured. Both groups denied involvement.

"Indian leaders have reportedly told the LTTE that it must strive hard to halt violent activities," the sources said.

The sources said S. Ramachandran, food minister in the southern State of Tamil Nadu, was acting as "go-between" between the LTTE militants and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Indian officials were not available for comment.

The LTTE, the most powerful of five groups fighting for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka, is known to have close ties with the All India Anna Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Party which rules the south Indian State of Tamil Nadu. All five groups have offices in Madras, the state capital.

EROS leader V. Balakumar told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE from Madras by telephone that his group had not been invited to the talks by the Indian Government.

Air Force Continues Air Raids

BK251452 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Colombo, 25 Apr (AFP)--Several Tamil separatists and two policemen were killed in fighting in the eastern province of Sri Lanka Saturday when police commandos overran a separatist base, official sources here said.

They said a large number of separatists from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had been killed in the exchange of fire but could not give the number.

Meanwhile the Air Force continued with air strikes against Tamil targets in the Jaffna peninsula in the north for the 4th day running Saturday.

But military sources said the raids had been few and lacked the intensity of the first 3 days of bombing.

Police commandos overran the main base of the LTTE in the jungles of the eastern province, the sources said.

About 100 kilogrammes (220 pounds) of explosives, grenades, landmines, radio equipment, and vehicles were recovered, they added.

Meanwhile Acting Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando summoned Indian envoy to Colombo Jyotindra Nath Dixit to his ministry Saturday and drew his attention to a resolution by government MP's asking that the Indian prime minister be requested to order the arrest of Tamil separatists living in India.

Mr Fernando told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that during his 45-minute meeting, which had been "cordial," he recalled that on previous occasions the Indian authorities had seized arms and ammunition used by Sri Lankan "terrorists based on Indian soil."

The acting foreign minister said Mr Dixit had told him he would convey the message to New Delhi.

Mr Fernando also called in some heads of missions from commonwealth countries to brief them on the situation here and the government's decision to strike at Tamil separatist bases.

He is expected to summon other envoys to brief them in the next few days, diplomatic sources said, adding that Sri Lanka was keen to explain its stand on Tamil separatism.

(In New Delhi two Indian political parties hit out at the Sri Lankan Government for calling off peace efforts and pursuing a military offensive against the separatists.

(The Communist Party of India (CPI) said it condemned Colombo's "bellicose utterances and actions" and Friday's "intemperate attack" on the Indian Government.

(Indian newspapers highlighted a statement by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa in Parliament Friday.

(Mr Premadasa was quoted as having said: "Any friend who tells us to find a political solution will be considered an enemy."

(The Lok Dal, which has considerable influence in India's Hind-speaking northern heartland, charged Colombo with embarking on a policy of "determined extermination" of the Tamil minority by pursuing a military offensive.

(Lok Dal General Secretary Subramanian Swamy said the party would begin "national action" to force the Indian Government into taking "effective measures to put an end to genocide in Sri Lanka.")

4 Rebel Bases, Boat Destroyed

BK261145 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] A Sri Lanka naval patrol vessel sank a large rebel craft laden with ammunition after a high speed chase, the government said today.

On land, four Tamil rebel bases were destroyed by helicopter gunships in the government's all-out war against separatist guerrillas.

Government spokesman Tilak Ratnakara said the navy patrol vessel spotted the large boat heading for the Sri Lankan coast from southern India last night.

The navy crew opened fire when the boat, equipped with two outboard engines, tried to escape.

14 Reported Killed in Firefights

BK261416 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Colombo, 26 Apr (AFP)--At least 14 people died in fighting between Tamil separatists and Sri Lankan Armed Forces during the past 3 days, but a curfew was lifted in the capital Sunday, officials said.

Life returned to normal in Colombo with the end of curfew 5 days after a bomb killed more than 100 people in a commercial district, but in the northern Tamil majority areas the government pursued its offensive to destroy guerrilla strongholds, officials said.

President Junius Jayewardene appealed Sunday to all democratic parties on the island to join the government in its fight to eliminate terrorism.

Mr Jayewardene, who has ordered that guerrilla bases be razed, rejected opposition calls for the government to resign. "In this situation for any political leader or party to resign seems to be not only cowardice but foolish.

"It would help the campaign of terrorists," he told his United National Party workers in Karandeniya in the south.

He called for an agreement on principles of peace, democracy, law and anti-separatism and for the opposition to cooperate with the government against terrorism.

Meanwhile, army patrols, machine gun and helicopter attacks on guerrilla bunkers and hideouts were continuing Sunday in northern Jaffna District as part of the major offensive to force the rebels to sue for peace, a government statement said.

The statement gave no details of Sunday's casualties.

Four people died in a rebel assault on a police station in Batticaloa town in the east Saturday where security forces destroyed a Tamil stronghold killing several rebels and losing two men, police said.

Three unidentified Tamils and a local Moslem man died in the grenade attack, which lasted 3 hours, but security forces suffered no causalties.

Police in Batticaloa told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone they knew the attack was coming after rebel radio messages had been intercepted.

It was not known if the dead Tamils were guerrillas or just people from the town caught up in the firing.

Police had gone on foot patrols across Batticaloa Sunday in pursuit of the separatists.

Two policemen were killed by a pressure mine and a booby-trap bomb when special task force commandos overran a militant base deep in jungle in the Batticaloa District Saturday, police said.

Several fighters of the most powerful militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had been killed in the assault.

About 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of explosives, grenades, landmines, radio equipment, and vehicles were recovered from the base, police said.

Security forces had killed four Tamil guerrillas in two attacks in the north Saturday, the government said Sunday.

Two guerrillas in uniform and armed with machineguns were spotted and killed by a patrol near Kankesanthurai on the northern coast and two others were shot dead and eight wounded in a shoot-out in Puttalam, the government said.

Four other guerrillas were killed in three separate clashes in the northeast late Friday, the statement added.

Curfew was clamped on the capital Tuesday after a huge bomb blast killed more than 100 people and took the death toll in one of the island's worst week's of violence to more than 300.

The Armed Forces launched air strikes on rebel strongholds from early Wednesday, but air strikes were halted Sunday after 4 days of bombardment in which 100 Tamils had been killed, officials said.

The killings last week have pushed the death toll in the ethnic violence to beyond 6,000 since mid-1983.

Jaffna Bombing Continues

BK261601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Sri Lankan Air Force planes continued bombing on Tamil dominated areas in the north for the 5th successive day today. The extent of damage or casualty is not immediately known. According to PTI, Tamil militants' hideouts and bunkers were also shelled.

In another incident, eight soldiers were killed and two injured in a landmine explosion today. An agency report from Colombo says that incident occurred when their armored personal carrier was blown up after hitting a landmine at (Kattaparichan) in the eastern region. They were engaged in a military operation against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Four women were reported killed and nine injured when Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed northern Jaffna town yesterday. Most of the victims were children.

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8 July 1987